

# MAIL SUPPLEMENT.

## The Hongkong Telegraph.

No. 2796.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1891.

SIX DOLLARS PER QUARTER

### MARRIAGE.

On the 12th inst., at H.B.M.'s Consulate-General, Shanghai, by P. J. Hughes, Esq., Consul-General, and afterwards at Trinity Cathedral, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., EDWARD BOIS, of Shanghai, to BLANCH MAUDE, youngest daughter of Francis Julian Marshall, Surveyor, H.B.M.'s Office of Works for China and Japan.

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### THE MILITARY CONTRIBUTION SWINDLE.

This journal has enunciated its views in no uncertain language when discussing the disgraceful attempt of the War Office, backed up by the supineness of Lord Knutsford and the other crowd of incapables at the Colonial Office, to extort from this colony a sum of £20,000 per annum as an extra military contribution under promises and pretences that have been proved to be false and misleading. We also opposed in the strongest terms the huge imposition for so-called fortifications—which was only agreed to after firm promises of wonderful breach-loading guns, first-class torpedo boats, and other death-dealing appliances, which were supposed to be necessary for the defence of Hongkong—and we gave decided warning that this colony was only being fleeced for political purposes. Our predictions regarding both the famous guns and the extra regiment have been verified to the letter; our direct charge that an attempt was being made to obtain an increased military contribution under specious promises which would not be fulfilled, has proved only too true, notwithstanding the utterly feeble and purposeless extension of Governor Sir Vaux in the Legislative Council on the 6th inst. It will be remembered that, when the Government was forcing this most unpopular measure down the throats of the unofficial members of Council by the sheer weight of the official phalanx, we strongly urged the gentlemen who are presumed to be representatives of the community, to resign their positions *en masse*, as a protest against the wanton bad faith of the Government. And we again recommended the adoption of that most effective course as an answer to Lord Knutsford's latest demand. There have been some rumours of a public meeting to be convened by the unofficial members for the purpose of ascertaining what is really the opinion of the community on the question; but it is hardly likely that such a meeting will be held. Our unofficial legislators, with two or three noteworthy exceptions, have always rested under the suspicion of "trimming" when the worst came to the worst, and we fear it would be so in this case. The Governor, the other day, trusted that the unofficial members would not place him in the painful position of being obliged to do his duty in face of their views. What is His Excellency's duty? To protect the interests of Hongkong, or to coerce or cajole the unofficial members into assisting him to "squeeze" £20,000 out of the taxpayers on grounds which will not for a moment bear inspection? Who pays Governor Sir Vaux his annual salary of £12,000? Is it the Colonial Office, the War Office, or the down-trodden rate-payers of Hongkong? If we mistake not, his Excellency is paid for his services by this colony, and it therefore seems to us that his first duty is to his immediate employers; and that duty is to conserve and safeguard their interests. But he does not see it in that light; he is appointed by the Colonial Office, and, therefore, he must do what that enlightened bureaucracy dictates—even to carrying through what is a shameful extortion. We are sorry for Governor Sir Vaux and sympathize with him in his unenviable position; but it would be much better if his Excellency owned up to the plain, unvarnished truth, instead of making lengthy, inconsistent and painfully illogical speeches in support of what is accurately described by the ugly word "fraud." The resignation of the unofficial members of Council, the Justices of the Peace, and of all other citizens who are in an honorary capacity associated with the Government, would quickly bring my Lord Knutsford and the vampires of the War Office to their proper senses.

The press of the Straits Settlements have borrowed our ideas and are advocating their adoption with spirit and energy. Our contemporary, the *Straits Independent*, after severely criticising Lord Knutsford's exorbitant demands, remarks—  
Our colleague of the *Straits Times*, who appears to be justly indignant at the action of the Home Government, and who has devoted several issues of his paper to expose the great injustice that has been perpetrated, very properly makes certain suggestions with a view to express the great indignation and "intensely bitter dissatisfaction" felt by this and other Crown colonies at the action of the Home authorities. We fully agree with the Editor of the *Straits Times*, and would gladly go hand-in-hand with him, although we do not believe that any further efforts will have the least effect in moving the Home Government one jot or tittle from the iniquitous course they have determined upon. By all means let the unofficial members of the Legislative Council, and the elected and nominated members of the several Municipal Boards, and every unpaid Justice of the Peace resign in a body. Neither in the Legislative Council, nor the Municipal Board are they of any practical use, because they are powerless either to carry out, or to veto, any measure in opposition to the official members, however brutal, or any

such measures may respectively be to the community at large. In fact, they are merely the Government's gratuitous advisers, whose opinion is only taken into consideration when it chanced to meet the views of the officials. We have no hesitation in advocating the course suggested by our Singapore contemporary. Let the world know that for all practical purposes the inhabitants of these settlements are unrepresented in the Legislature. What has been done out of us hitherto with such a great flourish of trumpets is but the shadow and not the substance of popular representation. If the gentlemen who now hold the several posts referred to will be consistent, straightforward and independent, they will let Lord Knutsford know that they decline further to lend themselves to the perpetration of what is but a "fraud, a delusion and a snare."

These are the views we have advocated for years, and we are glad to find that they have found so firm an echo in the Straits Settlements. At a meeting of the Singapore legislature held on the 5th inst., the Military Contribution question was made the subject of debate on a motion by the Colonial Secretary that the Council vote a sum of £88,211.66 for military contribution and allowances. Amidst loud applause from his unofficial colleagues Mr. T. SUTHERLAND said that "the garrison was not estimated by the wants of the people in Singapore, but was placed there for Imperial purposes," "that self-preservation was the first law of Nature applied to Colonial as well as to Imperial matters," and he wound up by insinuating that the Colonial Office had acted the part of a Judas in sacrificing the interests of the Crown Colonies to the dictates of the Imperial Treasury and the War Office. Mr. FINLAYSON admitted that all their arguments would be of no avail, and so long as there was a little money in the Straits Treasury the Chancellor of the Exchequer would never rest satisfied until he got it in his clutches. Some statements in the Secretary of State's despatch were too "thin," and although he (Mr. FINLAYSON) was a British taxpayer, he protested against this military extortion merely to save him the microscopic fraction of a penny which would fall upon him and his fellow taxpayers. Mr. BURKINSHAW followed on the same side and said the time was not one for argument but for action, and described the situation as a "monstrous injustice." The debate had not finished when the last mail left Singapore.

We recommend Mr. BURKINSHAW's forcible remark to the attention of the unofficial members of the Hongkong Legislative Council—"the time is not one for argument, but for action." And let that action be peremptory and decided. If the Governor, in what he considers the exercise of his duty, should attempt to force this unpopular vote through the Council by the aid of his official subordinates, every member should leave the table and at once resign. An appeal to the Hongkong community by their representatives in the Legislative Council would be a startling novelty; but it would also have the effect of bringing the satraps of the Colonial Office to their senses in double-quick time.

### MAGNIFICENT (?) HONGKONG.

The *London and China Express* of February 6th says that an extract from a Blue Book on Hongkong is going the rounds of the English press which points out that the prosperity and advancement of the colony are bound up with the progress made by the great country on whose confines Hongkong is situated. Here is the closing sentence of the extract—

To encourage China in the adoption of modern ideas, to assist her, in so far as possible, in opening up her vast territory, and to facilitate intercourse between her and other nations, should surely be the duty of a colony whose interests are interwoven with her interests, and whose prosperity will be retarded in proportion as hers is held back by a policy of too conservative a nature.

These words, says the *L. & C. Express*, are perfectly true, and we have no very strong reasons to suggest that they are not; but surely anybody and everybody who knows the least thing at all about Hongkong and China, their geographical positions and mutual commercial necessities, didn't require these stale truisms rammed down their throats through the medium of an official Blue Book? Our worthy *London* contemporary makes these comments—

In justice to those who have had the making of Hongkong politically and commercially, it seems to us that the extract is a little further relative increase of prosperity in large part dependent on the progress that China herself makes, still what Hongkong has done has been mainly of her own volition. She had the material at hand to work on, and the opportunity has been taken, until she finds herself in the magnificent position she now occupies.

The latter sentence in this quotation is exceedingly funny, and again shows what a profound knowledge of this colony and its affairs is possessed by so-called experts and old China hands in *London*. Sooth to say, the material at the disposal of the men whose enterprise, perseverance and industry made Hongkong what she is to-day, was but scanty and of poor quality. In plain truth, the British pioneers of trade had to go through an experiment very much resembling the very difficult operation of "making bricks" without straw. Hongkong's commercial importance, as a trading centre, whatever may be its present actual value, either commercially or politically, is undoubtedly owing to the fact that Chinese traders in thousands, having confidence in the foreign invaders and recognizing the advantages of living under the protection of British rule, flocked into the colony,

until to-day almost the whole of the trade is practically in their hands. Foreign merchants still do a limited business both in imports and exports, but it is chiefly on commission or as agents or go-betweens for Chinese firms. Our banks and public companies are still under foreign control, and there are various shipping enterprises flourishing in our midst directed by foreigners; but even in all these, with but few exceptions, Chinese influence is conspicuously paramount. Hongkong is no doubt a wonderful place, a marvellous instance of successful British colonization, but in appraising the causes which have led to such gratifying results, the potent Chinese element has been generally overlooked. And among Far Eastern ports, this city of Victoria is by no means exceptional in that respect.

But what can the Editor of the *L. & C. Express* mean when he refers to the "magnificent position" Hongkong now occupies? Where does the "magnificent position" come in? The trade of the place could scarcely be worse than it is, and in no town in the world of the same size is there more wide-spread suffering and misery. Foreigners, unless exceptionally placed, are only able to earn a bare livelihood, and many indeed find it impossible to make ends meet. Where are the grand old historical "hangs" and shipping firms of less than twenty years ago? They have departed like the very much defunct China tea trade, and in all but a few striking cases left only agencies and commission shops behind. Trade in foreign hands in Hongkong is almost as dead as it is in Canton and Macao; the energetic, far-seeing and industrious Chinese have the game almost entirely in their own hands, and they know it well. Why do we not frankly recognise it too is one of those hereditary traits of English character which nobody can clearly explain. It is true we have a numerous and comfortably provided official class; and if the "magnificent position" of the *London* paper refers to these ornaments to local society, we at once cry *peccati*; but as a mercantile and, to some extent, manufacturing centre, Hongkong, at the present time is in dire straits, and has been laboring under great depression for the past eighteen months. The prosperity of a commercial port cannot be gauged by the successful ventures of a gambling bank nor by the fictitious dividends of speculative joint-stock concerns. Hongkong's "magnificent position," on paper, was acquired during that eventful season of summer madness when companies of every shape and hue were floated almost daily, and about every foreigner in the town thought himself hand-and-glove with fortune. The bubble burst, and so did Hongkong's ephemeral magnificence. If there is a more poverty-stricken, woe-begone, and generally wretched British city on the face of the earth than this vaunted Victoria, we should like to know where it is to be found. The only magnificence in the place must be sought for amongst opulent Chinese merchants—and the successful Bank directors and their jacks. It doesn't exist anywhere else.

### THE CZAREWITCH.

HIS IMPERIAL HIGHNESS the Czarowitch landed at Singapore, to return the official call of Governor Sir CECIL SIN, on the afternoon of the 3rd inst. Although the Russian Prince had specially requested that there should be as few people as possible at his reception on landing, a regular army of official bumpers attended in stage dresses of various descriptions, decorated with all sorts of things, from the meaningless star of St. Michael and St. George to that honorable badge worn by the modest teetotaler. On getting ashore the Czarowitch at once proceeded to Government House, the most conspicuous figure in the official escort being JENNINGS, the Singapore secret police officer, who followed directly behind the Prince's carriage in a hired gharry. We cannot conceive why JENNINGS should have taken part in this mild pageant, in fact, it looks almost like an insult to Russia; but possibly it may have been intended as a compliment and as a specimen of that astute, if usually incomprehensible, diplomacy for which British Colonial viceroys are so famous. After a very short stay with Governor Sir SIN, less than a quarter of an hour, the hope of Russia returned direct to the pier, with the secret police officer in the hack carriage still in close attendance, and at once went on board the *Panama*. Probably disgusted with the fawning sycophancy of the local representatives of "the rulers of the waves," he left for Batavia, next morning, having, through the Russian consul, declined to receive any ceremonial visits from the Foreign consuls or from anybody else.

Hongkong, we are afraid, will be gravely disappointed. The rank and gentility and fashion and shoddy, and the other swells of more or less high degree who had made up their minds to hob-nob with a real Russian *Hell-Apparant*—not to mention such minor nobilities as Prince George of Greece and Prince Bismarck—and to give their tasty Court suits, Windsor uniforms, and Marlborough House togery a public airing, are already at fever-heat with indignation at being done out of the opportunity of again gaily strutting in borrowed plumage. They can't understand why this distinguished Russian traveller should decline to be loaded to and to make a waxwork exhibition of himself for the special gratification of a hybrid crowd of smirking jobbies, who generally carry, what serves the purpose of brains somewhere in the region of the

hooter; forgetting that his journey, to the Far East for his own convenience and not for the indulgence of the *capitule* of British settlements. But they vow that, notwithstanding the expressed wishes of the Russian Emperor's son, they will not be deprived of their anticipated outing; they will array themselves in all their borrowed war-paint and roll up in regiments at Murray Wharf to give him a full-dress reception, and the hand will play and the fools will bray, and a great deal of sickening and offensive nonsense will be indulged in—just the same as if the future "White Czar" were the amiable "Dook" of CONNAUGHT, Prince "Collars-and-Cuffs," the late lamented King KALAKAUA, or his deceased majesty of the Sedangs.

The Czarowitch is travelling for his own special purposes and on his own business; his high rank necessitates that a certain amount of formality and official ceremonial must attend him wherever he goes; but he is not wooing publicity as an advance agent for a circus, and he has very plainly and emphatically expressed the desire to be saved from public receptions that have become a bore and from flunkeyism that is always objectionable, and it is therefore to be hoped for the honour and credit of this colony that Governor Sir Vaux, who is not built on the lines of the common or garden order of the Colonial official, will peremptorily insist on the visitor's wishes being rigidly respected, and that when he lands here the gorgeous scene from the usual Hongkong pantomime will form no part of the programme. Let the Imperial visitor be received with the dignity and respect we owe to the future ruler of a vast and powerful but distinctly hostile empire, that happens unfortunately to be the inevitable antagonist of our own country in the great political questions now darkening the horizon, and which sooner or later must be finally adjusted by the arbitrament of ironclads on the sea and armies on the field of battle; if hearty English courtesy can make the Czarowitch's passing visit to this far distant, outpost of British interests in any way agreeable, it should be freely and chivalrously offered in no stinted measure; but let him be spared the irritating, gaudy, of ridiculously dressed-up automata, the inane chatter of a painfully mediocre officialdom, the general burlesque business of a country fair, and above all, keep the secret police severely out of the show. We have no dynamite fiends in Hongkong, and the Czarowitch only wants to be treated like an ordinary visitor.

### JUSTICE IN THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

They appear to have a nice assortment of dispensers of law and justice in the Straits Settlements. We are especially favored in Hongkong, but the high-minded and ultra-merciful judges of this "Malta and Gibraltar of the East" are not a patch on the modern male *Portius* who sling around in massive chunks the wisdom of Solomon and the latest edition of ARCHBOLD in the British courts of the Malay Peninsula. A few days ago we reported from a Singapore contemporary a case in which a young European had been sentenced at Selangor to three years' rigorous imprisonment on an alleged charge of having fabricated evidence that tended seriously to affect the social reputation of a Government official. We had no detailed particulars of the charge, but it strongly suggested another edition of the notorious Hongkong Conspiracy case, with variations. Some of the facts have now reached us and they are of thrilling interest. Here is an outline—

When that spotless ornament to the British Peerage, the Duke of SUTHERLAND, was in Johore, he succeeded in converting the Sultan into a kind of Scotchman—to the extent of deeply admiring the ancient and soul-inspiring music of the bag-pipes. So enamoured did his Highness become of the edifying air of the "pipes" that he got the Duke to promise to send him an accomplished performer from famed Dunrobin. His Grace was as good as his word, and in due time a young lad named BOLAND arrived at Johore, and in the year of old Gaul nightly enraptured the Sultan's dinner proceedings according to ancient custom. Before last St. Andrew's Eve the Sultan's piper was chartered, for a special excursion to Selangor to perform at the St. Andrew's Ball, and he went there and was so well pleased with the place that he accepted a position under the Government in the Kuala Lumpur Hospital. After some time, and for reasons not stated, Dr. SINCLAIR, who was in charge of the Hospital, suspended BOLAND from duty—and now the business becomes exciting.

It seems that a lady, Miss SAVORY, who was a governess in Dr. SINCLAIR's house, had died suddenly—it was alleged from an overdose of chloral, and it was in connection with this lady's death that BOLAND got himself within the dangerous and uncertain meshes of the law. The young piper, so it is stated, a day or two after the death of the governess, made a voluntary declaration before the Resident of Selangor to the effect that, when outside Dr. SINCLAIR's house one night, he heard a woman's voice, which he recognised to be that of Miss SAVORY, forbidding some person from entering her bed-room and asking how that person dared to take such a liberty. BOLAND alleged that the voice, which he replied, to Miss SAVORY, was the voice of Dr. SINCLAIR, the husband of, of course, being that the Doctor had been guilty of serious impropriety. Dr. SINCLAIR protested the "lad" before the Selangor Court on a charge of making a false declaration, and the case was heard before

Mr. WELAND, chief magistrate, and a jury. BOLAND, in his defence, made the same statement in court that he had previously made to the Resident; the statement was not substantiated by evidence—nor could it well be, seeing that Miss SAVORY was dead, and of course Dr. SINCLAIR denied the whole affair point blank. The Resident was examined, as was Mrs. SINCLAIR, the wife of the Doctor, but we cannot say what their evidence was worth; at all events the jury eventually found BOLAND guilty, but recommended him to mercy, and the Magistrate—who is evidently a judge of the Sir PETER EDLIN stamp—imposed a sentence of three years' rigorous imprisonment.

We are not in possession of the detailed evidence adduced at the trial, and it would be both unfair and unwise to attempt to discuss the probabilities on the mere outline of alleged facts. If BOLAND, who is described as a mere lad, did concoct and deliberately bring this charge against Dr. SINCLAIR out of motives of spite or for any unlawful purpose, his offence was a very serious one; but the opinion of the jury notwithstanding, such a MACHIAVELLIAN act on the part of a boy is hard to believe without some strong evidence in support. And we are unable to understand the special charge on which the lad could have been arraigned, entailing, even after a recommendation to mercy, such a sentence as three years' imprisonment with hard labour. Perhaps the next mail from Singapore may bring us further particulars; but in any case and whatever the circumstances, it seems clear enough that the prosecution was an ill-judged one and the brutality of the sentence a disgrace to the administration of justice in the Straits Settlements.

### TELEGRAMS.

#### DEATH OF THE UNITED STATES MINISTER TO JAPAN.

TOKYO, 10th March, 1891.  
Mr. John F. Swift, United States Minister to Japan, died here to-day.

(Special to Hongkong Telegraph.)

#### CONSUL ALABASTER PROMOTED.

CANTON, March 13th.  
Mr. Chaloner Alabaster, British consul at this port, has been promoted to the rank of consul-general.

This promotion will probably postpone Mr. Alabaster's departure from Canton, greatly to the satisfaction of the foreign community.

### LOCAL AND GENERAL.

Li, ex-Minister for China to Japan, left Shanghai for Peking, via Tientsin, on the morning of the 13th inst.

The returns of the number of visitors to the City Hall Museum for the week ending March 15th, are—Europeans 158, and Chinese 1,377; total 1,535.

The *Nagasaki Rising Sun* states that the German steamer *Merve* has changed her flag and will henceforth be known as the *Nippon-maru*.

It is stated that Mr. H. Kopsch, now Commissioner of Customs at Chinkiang, is to succeed Mr. E. McKean as Statistical Secretary, in charge of the department in the Peking Road, Shanghai.

The directors of the Sheridan Mining Company have notified the shareholders that a dividend of two-and-a-half per cent., being the first dividend of 1891, has been declared, payable on the 17th inst.

The rumours prevalent as to the probable withdrawal of the China Merchants' Co.'s steamer *Kiangkwa* from the Canton river, are authoritatively stated by our Shanghai morning contemporary to be mere *canards*.

Dr. KOCH's lymph has been introduced into Shanghai. The first inoculations took place there the other day. What's the matter with the Hongkong medics? They are not usually so slow in scientific investigation.

BROTHER E. BOIS, W.M. of the Northern Lodge of China, E.C., was presented on Wednesday evening the 11th inst., at a regular meeting of the Lodge, Shanghai, with a very handsome gold gifter tea-service as a wedding present.

We learn that as the French transport *Comorin*, which arrived in Singapore on the 6th inst., bound for Tongking, was approaching the Borneo Wharf several men sprang over the side. Three succeeded in making good their escape.

The steamer *Swatow*, despatched from Shanghai for Wuhu by Messrs. Melchers & Co. on the 14th inst., ran badly ashore at Half-way Point the same afternoon. She got off next day, without having sustained any apparent damage, and proceeded on her voyage.

The members of the Rifle Association had another field day on Saturday, the Short Range Challenge Cup, and Spoons being the events competed for. Lieut. Martin, R.N., won the Cup, and the 500 yards Spoon, for the latter making the excellent aggregate of 64. The 600 yards Spoon was won by Mr. Woodin.

The *Shanghai Mercury* reports that a collision occurred in the Peko on the 5th inst. between the steamers *Priching* and *Hatting*. Whilst the *Hatting* was lying in the Vegetable Bend the *Priching* struck her on the starboard quarter, carrying away two boats' davits, bending several stanchion rails, &c. The damage done was unimportant.

The Attorney-General moved on the 17th inst. that Mr. Harry Rutherford Parkes, B.A., son of the late Sir Harry Parkes, be admitted a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Hongkong. The Chief Justice said: "I have looked through these papers and have found them in order and I have, therefore, much pleasure in admitting Mr. Parkes to practice in this Court. As you say, Mr. Attorney, Mr. Parkes bears an honourable name; it is a name universally respected in China and Japan. Mr. Parkes in his practice, may confidently look forward to every consideration from all concerned in the law, and I make the order that Mr. Parkes be admitted a solicitor of this Court." Mr. Parkes joins the office of Messrs. Caldwell and Wilkinson.

THAT heaven-born tragedian "Dragic Bower," otherwise Daniel Edward Bandmann, the esteemed friend and client of John Joseph Francis, Esq., O.C.,—oh, the shame of it!—is now "ranching" in Montana. He will probably be lynched one of these days. The learned one would be an ornament in Montana. They generally run in couples—yes!

WITH reference to the military contribution in Singapore, it has been decided to call a public meeting under the auspices of the Straits Association, in order to enable the public of that colony to support the protest of the unofficial members of the Legislative Council against the arbitrary enforcement of an action from their Colonial revenues for which it is impossible to find any shadow of just ground.

THE Chinese Government, says the *San Francisco Chronicle*, is trying to borrow \$15,000,000 worth of silver at 4½ per cent., but seems to be unable to find purchasers for its bonds at 95 cents. The brief dispatch which informs us of this fact suggests the idea that the silver is to be used in the creation of a legal tender currency to take the place of the present confused and unsystematic money in use in the Chinese empire.

We are glad to see that the suggestion thrown out some time since by the *Telegraph*, regarding the obvious necessity for the alteration of the conditions of the Hongkong Derby, has been followed by the Stewards of the Jockey Club. That body has issued a notice that in future the weights of Derby runners will be according to their inches, and not the standard 10st. 10lbs. of previous years. This much needed reform will altogether do away with the chances of those elongated transients of the Arc and Elysian fields who, of course, bring all ponies on to practically even terms, and make the race much more interesting in consequence.

THE *Shen bao* is responsible for the following:—"The forts round about Canton and along the coast are built of stones and earth. Viceroy Li Han-chang considers them to be useless against the attacks of the heavy modern guns now used in the Army and Navy, and has decided to replace them by iron turret forts. A certain high English military official is now in Canton, giving instructions as to their construction and position, requesting at the same time that he be given the orders for material and work. He has since started in company with the deputy of the Board of Reorganisation, to inspect the forts along the coast." Who is the "certain high English military official?"

Two Chinamen appeared before Mr. A. G. Wise at the Magistrate's court (17th inst.), charged with having snatched a bangle from a child, and a pair of ear-rings from a woman in New Street yesterday. There was no evidence of violence adduced—it was simply a case of "stealing." Yet the magistrate thought fit to pass a sentence of three months' imprisonment with hard labour, and in addition each prisoner to receive twelve strokes with a rattan at the commencement of the term and the same number on leaving the goal. If this is not wanton cruelty, what is it? It is a well known fact that after having received twelve strokes, a prisoner has to lie on his face for a fortnight to allow the part to heal, yet these men, after having been flogged once and undergoing three months' rigorous imprisonment, are to receive additional punishment, which will cause them to be detained in goal for virtually another fortnight, or be sent out with their persons lacerated to loaf on their friends—if they have any, or to die in a ditch if they haven't. Truly the blind goddess needs to have her scales adjusted in Hongkong.

In the *Peking Gazette* of the 4th March there is the first announcement of the Audience, which is thus translated—"At half-past eleven the Emperor will receive in audience at the Tze Kuang Ko all the nations." Then follows a decree mentioning the high officials at Peking and in the provinces, whom the Emperor, after the triennial examination, finds deserving of special notice and recognition. These are:—

Prince Li  
Ojo-ho-pu, } Grand Secretaries.  
Chang-Chih-wan, }  
Hui Kiao-shan, President of the Board of Punishments.  
Sun Yi-wen, President of the Board of Punishments.  
Li Hung-chang, Viceroy of Chihli.  
Chang Chih-tung, Viceroy of Huksang.  
Chang Yao, Governor of Shantung.

The Board of Civil Office is to consult as to what reward should be bestowed on these most eminent servants of the Throne. It will no doubt surprise Lord Wolsey, and other home droppers who believe in the repression of the Chinese by the so-called "Tartars," that out of the eight selected names only two are Manchus. The following notice appears in the *Gazette* of the 6th inst.:—"At noon on the 5th inst. the Emperor received in audience the Ministers of the various nations, Brandt, Denby, Walsingham, Otori, Panza, Fergusson, and the *Chargé d'affaires* Ujibari, Klemensow, Rastelhuber, and Michel."

The *Chinese Nippo* gives the following "full and correct account of the discovery of the new seam at Takasima."—"Having received indirect news regarding the discovery of a new coal seam, we dispatched a special reporter to Takasima to ascertain full particulars, and we give hereunder a full and correct account. In Takasima at present two seams are being worked; and it is estimated their production will be exhausted in two or three years, and falling to discover, after many attempts, any other seams. It was decided when the above seams became exhausted to give up working Takasima. There is an old pit situated in the south-east of the island about 100 *juns* distant from Hyakumasaki, and was worked by the natives 70 years ago, but after 650 *shaku* were dug which took them some 30 years, the work was abandoned. To this pit the Mitsui Bishi Company have directed their attention, thinking that with perfect machinery the old seam is really worked by the natives might give Takasima a new lease of life. The trial working was commenced in May 1889, and after boring through the fault they discovered a seam about eight *shaku* high, but when they had worked in three directions, some 480 *shaku*, a heavy layer of stone stopped further progress. Apparently there seemed to be then no future prospect in these three seams, but Engineer Matsubayashi, the British employed Brown, and others resolved to cut through the stone layers if possible, with the result that they discovered two seams of 8 *shaku* and 31 *shaku* thick. One hundred and twenty *shaku* have been dug at present, and as it is some good quality coal they are believed to be the old 18th century seam. When the survey is completed, and the report is a satisfactory one, the mines will be worked on a great scale. (The *Shimbun* 17th English Edition.)







## THE CHINESE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION).

A general meeting of shareholders in the Chinese Insurance Company, Limited, in liquidation, was held at the Head Office of the Company (Messrs. Melchers & Co's) yesterday afternoon (12th inst.), when the liquidators laid before the shareholders the account showing their acts and dealings, and the manner in which the winding up had hitherto been conducted. There were present Messrs. F. Dowell (Chairman), S. C. Macintosh, E. George, J. Macintosh, T. J. Rose, E. B. Jorcy, J. Goodman, G. Von Wille, several Chinese shareholders and H. Harris (Secretary).

The Chairman said—The report and accounts having been in your hands for some little time I shall with your permission take them as read. In coming before you with their report of the progress of the winding up during the past year, the liquidators exceedingly regret that the results continue so unsatisfactory, but they would be doing less than their duty did they endeavour to put matters before you in any more favourable light than the facts warrant. As the accounts show, and the report points out, the actual losses paid out during last year are comparatively small, some \$2,100 only, being the balance between \$39,000 losses paid and recoveries \$37,000, which of course represents a great deal of labour on the part of the liquidators in London. However, the drain of liquidation expenses must be taken into account. It is true that in nearly every instance we are reimbursed, but as you are all aware underwriting of late has resulted in heavy losses, and in some cases in failure to meet engagements, and we regret to say that we have been unfortunate in this respect as regards some of our reinsurers, to which we have before alluded. We have, therefore, but little hope of being able to complete the liquidation without almost entirely exhausting the called up capital, of which about \$40,000 only remained at the close of last year, and in this connection the liquidators may congratulate themselves and the shareholders, if indeed congratulation can be allowed in such a dreary matter, that they were not so tempted last year by sanguine estimates to make any repayment of capital, which would, as events are proving, almost certainly have had to be recalled. The report makes mention of a scheme for shortening the process of winding up, which the liquidators are considering, and we propose to take advantage of your presence here to-day to ask you to remain behind at the close of the meeting for private discussion, when we will lay before you details of the matter. You will probably agree with us, it would be unwise to publicly discuss these, as such a course might prejudice the negotiations. Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts as presented, I shall be glad to answer any questions shareholders may have to put at this meeting.

There being no questions, the Chairman proposed the adoption of the report and accounts. Mr. Jorcy seconded, and the motion was unanimously carried.

This concluded the business of the public meeting, which was followed by a private consultation between the liquidators and shareholders as to the most expeditious manner of bringing the winding up to a satisfactory conclusion.

## MEETING OF THE SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 13th inst. There were present—Mr. S. Brown, President; Dr. Ayres, Colonial Surgeon; Mr. J. H. Stewart-Lockhart, Registrar-General; Mr. Geo. Horspool, Acting Captain Superintendent of Police; Mr. J. D. Humphreys, and Mr. M. McCallum (Secretary).

## MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

**THE LICENSING OF COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.**  
A set of amended bye-laws dealing with the licensing, regulation and sanitary maintenance of common lodging-houses was laid on the table, and it was said that the Committee had approved of them and recommended their adoption.

The bye-laws were read and passed after slight amendments, it being decided to print and circulate them in Chinese and give the natives 5 months' notice prior to their coming into operation in November.

**THE DISINFECTION OF PUBLIC VEHICLES.**  
A discussion took place on this subject and it was ultimately decided to refrain from formally reading and discussing the new proposed bye-laws pending the result of certain negotiations with the Colonial Surgeon (a member of the Board, who has been appointed relative to the disinfection of infected vehicles used for carrying diseased people to the Civil Hospital); the desire of the Board being that the Civil Hospital authorities should at once disinfect such vehicles and not allow them, as heretofore, to be kept in the compound until the Sanitary Superintendent causes the disinfection to be carried out.

**MORTALITY RETURNS.**  
The Secretary said that during the ten weeks, of this year, just ended there had been an excess of 353 over the returns for the corresponding period of 1890, 148 of the excess were caused by chest affections and 111 by fevers.

**HOUSE DRAINS.**  
It was decided to enclose the drains in houses, 174 to 249, Holland Road, Chung Hing Lane and 45, Lower Lascar Row, owing to their very insanitary condition.

**REPORT FOR 1890.**  
The Superintendent's Report for 1890 was laid on the table.

The Board adjourned for a fortnight.

## CHARGE OF ASSAULT AGAINST A CHIEF OFFICER.

William King, chief officer of the British steamer *Ghausa*, was charged at the Marine Court this morning (13th inst.) before Comm. Hastings, R.N., with assaulting James McCubbin, boatswain of the same steamer, on the 12th inst.

The complainant said that about 6.30 a.m. on the 12th inst. the defendant asked him roughly and he replied "Do you think I am an ordinary seaman?" The defendant then knocked him down and struck him several times about the head and face.

A. Finlay, seaman of the *Ghausa*, said the crew turned to, as usual, at 6 a.m. on the 12th inst. The complainant and himself were washing palat work. The chief officer grumbled about the manner in which the work was done, and the boatswain replied "You speak to me as if I was an ordinary seaman." The defendant then knocked him down and struck him several times about the head and face, and then with an oath knocked him down and said "I will do for you this time." The defendant struck the complainant several times violently on the head, and the defendant said "Have you had enough?" The complainant said "Yes, I've had enough," and the defendant again caught him and bumped his head on the deck several times. The complainant then drew the right eye and then,

By the defendant—You struck the complainant twice on the ear whilst he was lying on the deck. You got him down three times.

Charles Giffard, ordinary seaman, corroborated the last witness, and in reply to the defendant said—You said you would do for him, when the complainant was down the second time.

The defendant said the complainant had given him a lot of trouble during the three months he had been on board the steamer. Yesterday morning the boatswain was tumbling about the poop under the influence of liquor. He called him down and told him to go forward, but he refused and went back. He again called the complainant down, and losing his temper he caught him by the throat and gave him a slap on the ear. That was all he did. He never touched his nose or yet spoke to him.

The magistrate considered the charge proved and imposed a fine of \$15, with the alternative of 60 days' imprisonment with hard labour.

## FIRE ON BOARD THE "ARRATOON APCAR."

As Messrs. Apar's Calcutta liner *Arratoon* APCAR, Captain Spence, was approaching the Kowloon wharf at half-past four yesterday afternoon (11th inst.), the alarm of fire was raised, and it was soon found that fire had broken out on the 'twain decks aft, where about 600 Chinese passengers—taken on board at Calcutta, Penang and Singapore—were huddled together. Signals of distress were hoisted at once, the ship was backed out of the wharf and anchored off Yau-mai Point, whither the British floating fire-engine and several boats and launches from the *Leander*, *Seymour* and other men-of-war quickly repaired to render assistance. Meanwhile the steamer's hose was brought to bear on the fire through holes cut in the deck of the saloon, and when the men-of-war's men got to work a torrent of water was poured down into the 'twain decks on top of the Chinese passengers' baggage—where the fire originated—and chests of opium and bales of jute. The first difficulty encountered by the officers of the ship was the removal of the Chinese from the 'twain decks, where they clung like grim death to portions of their baggage. However, with the application of a little muscular persuasion, and a broom handle or two, the crowd were got on deck and driven—what they could save—on deck. After this the "jacks" and "blows," had it all their own way and soon succeeded in removing a lot of the cargo and baggage, thereby enabling the hose to play on the seat of the fire which was extinguished before 6 p.m. A large quantity of the passengers' baggage has been destroyed, while several chests of opium and some scores of bales of jute were damaged. How the fire originated is not yet positively known, but there seems to be some truth in the theory that the fire was kindled by suspicious characters who were on board for the purpose of having an opportunity of looting the baggage of several wealthy passengers who came up from Batavia and Singapore. That a large number of passengers' trunks were smashed open and the contents strewn about there can be no doubt whatever and several passengers allege that they have lost all their valuables and a good deal of hard cash. Whether the fire originated in the manner suggested, or by pure accident, or owing to cargo in an improper condition being stored on board is a matter which can only be settled by the Court of Inquiry which will doubtless be held in the course of a day or two. The Marine Surveyors, Captains E. Burnie and G. C. Anderson, were on board this morning in the interests of the insurance companies prior to the order to "break bulk" being given. The total loss incurred by the fire is as yet unknown, but \$10,000 will hardly, it is said, cover the passengers' and shipowners' claims, as well as costs of general repairs to the ship herself.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by Correspondents in this column.)

## THE DIOCESAN HOME BUILDING FUND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."  
SIR—Will you allow me to draw attention to the kind offer of H.E. the Governor to give the last \$100 to the Diocesan Home Building Fund on condition that the remaining \$365 be subscribed? It is an effort to help to realize as soon as possible, the \$400 needed to meet a similar sum from the Government under the provisions of the grant-in-aid scheme. The subscription has been dragging its slow length along for more than a year, and every possible effort has been made in Hongkong and the Ports to obtain help. We are now in the last stage of collecting, the most difficult of all, and it is to encourage us in our difficulty that the Governor makes his offer. The object of the Home is well known. Eurasian and destitute Chinese children are taken in as boarders and receive the necessary instruction to enable them to earn an honest livelihood. The number of these during last year was 66. Day scholars also are received, both English and Chinese. The teaching staff consists of three masters. As a school it has shown itself thoroughly efficient. This year, the year of its coming of age, it has specially distinguished itself by furnishing the Government school. The school comes behind no other in the colony. The present building is very old and not large enough to accommodate all that seek admission. It does not contain one really good and commodious schoolroom. The effort therefore to find a new wing is absolutely necessary for health and efficiency. To raise the \$365 needed to secure the Governor's offer I know not to whom to appeal unless to those who have so kindly helped us already. Will ten gentlemen give \$50 each in addition to what they have already given? If so, I will gladly add by my subscription the remaining \$65. Smaller contributions, however, will be most thankfully received, and will be acknowledged at once in the newspapers if sent to me or to Mr. Percy.

J. S. BURDON, Bishop.  
St. Paul's College, 15th March, 1891.

## ALICE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."  
DEAR SIR—I have received \$200 from the Victoria Recreation Club, per Mr. C. H. Thompson, on account of the Assistant-Master held at the City Hall on the 3rd inst.

Yours faithfully,  
E. W. MAITLAND,  
Hon. Treasurer,  
Alice Memorial Hospital.  
Hongkong, 11th March, 1891.

## "PIGEON" LOTTERIES IN CANTON.

One of the greatest existing evils in Canton, according to a Chinese contemporary in a mode of gambling called "Pigeon" lottery, which is prohibited by Viceroys Chang Chih-tung, who saw the evil effects on the people. It induces people to be idle and leads them to commit most atrocious crimes. Many a man has been reduced to abject poverty by attempting to obtain wealth by one stroke of good luck.

Since the appointment of Li Han-chang to the Viceroyship of Liang Kuang, the "Pigeon" lottery has again been opened in the streets, where the people resort most, and legitimate business is greatly interfered with. The prominent business men and the citizens have sent in numberless memorials to the authorities asking them to check this gambling, but none of the high officials have given any attention to their petitions. It has been discovered, that the reason of their inattention is because a son of one of the highest authorities is a shareholder in one of the largest concerns, and bribes have been accepted by the officials. The streets are constantly filled with men of uncertain character who are the cause of much anxiety among business men, who fear lest their shops might be robbed at any time. The people actually rob the country folk who think that they might get rich by trying their luck.

The petty thieves, who abound in the city, were originally the reduced poverty-stricken country people. During the years of prohibition the city was almost cleared of them, but since the 7th month of last year, by the opening of these gambling dens, the city is again in danger of being over-run with them. If they are not prohibited, the place will be filled with a dangerous class of people. They will be in time so impoverished by their gambling proclivities that the Government will have to support them from the revenue. During one year of the reign of Tung Chih, so many people were reduced to destitution that numbers died of starvation, and Lieut. Governor Chang issued a very stringent proclamation without the consent of the Viceroy prohibiting gambling. If the present high authorities will do this, this great evil, the surely approaching calamity of their subjects will be attributable to them.

## THE AUDIENCE DIFFICULTY.

By mutual concession a compromise between the Foreign Ministers and the Tsung-li Yamen is understood to have been arrived at which will enable the Audience to take place, probably within a few weeks. It would serve no useful purpose at present to canvass the details of the bargain, and we would rather take the occasion to consider some of the difficulties which have hindered the negotiation. Though the compromise is not finally settled, it has no doubt been advanced a stage towards a complete and satisfactory conclusion at some future time; and the present crisis, like a transit of Venus, will furnish to those concerned many valuable data whereby the phenomena of the next transit may be calculated, and the true relations of things become better understood. The primary fact which emerges from recent as from all previous discussions on this subject seems to be this: that the reception of foreigners by the Emperor of China on terms of theoretical equality is an axiom which the Chinese must and will oppose strenuously in fact, and to which they will only yield under irresistible pressure. First they fight the principle, and when compelled for fear of consequences to give way on that, they will then renew the fight on every detail, conceding to the Ministers only the ultimate irreducible minimum of their demands. The recent discussion leaves no room for doubt that the Chinese contention is based on, to them, solid, permanent and even sacred grounds, and it is most important to have had this central fact brought once more so conspicuously to the front of the negotiation. Whether the opposition to the honorable reception of foreign representatives be due to considerations of mere temporary expediency, to the arrogance or whim of individuals, or to any personal policy whatever, or whether it be the natural operation of a principle rooted in the traditions of the empire, and the people.

The evidence goes to show that the assumption of universal supremacy by their Emperor represents a principle which expresses not so much a conviction of the Chinese as an instinct which is inherited and against which the facts and arguments of common life are equally impotent. To the ordinary Chinese mind the mere suggestion of a possible equality shocks the nerves, or sends the man into fits of laughter. What, sit on the same *Kiang* with the Emperor! The incongruity is to a Chinaman like what the absurdities in "Alice in Wonderland" are to ourselves. By no process of plainness dentistry can such fixed ideas be rooted out. All classes are permeated with them, the highest officials are bound by them, and even the Emperor himself seems no more able to escape from the national traditions than from the atmosphere which he breathes. Universal supremacy indeed must be of the essence of all theocratic government. The Son of Heaven can have no rival, and no equal.

And all government being primitively theocratic, it is not in China alone that this natural and logical corollary of the theocratic idea has been maintained. In fact, it is that which has taken the deepest hold on the social system. The assumption of universal autocracy has appeared under various forms in many parts of the world, but the collision of one infallibility with another has usually been sufficient to reciprocally cancel exclusive pretensions, and to bring the claims of all within limitations admitting of international intercourse. Yet even where special claims have been concretely fought out, the idea has often lingered like a ghost over the grave of its dead embodiment. How long, for example, the phantom of the Holy Roman Empire has survived the reality, and the tenacity with which the Papacy clings to the shadow of its vanished power suggests a not inapt analogy to the actual position of China holding fast to her divine right to supremacy after *de facto* foundation has been shattered. As China has been called the living museum of social archaisms may not this ineradicable pretension be simply the survival of a universal primitive conception which has been modified by conflict elsewhere, but which, protected here from the action of external forces, has by thousands of years of undisturbed culture, attained its full development only in China? Does it not rank with that other great survival of primitive polity, ancestor worship, as an essential element in the national life? To the Chinese mind this is not the acceptance of dogmas propounded by authority, but the vital apprehension of truths—necessary truths—common to heaven and earth. Nations generally, we have said, begin with divine origin, which by the attraction of practical life becomes abstracted into the safe regions of myth and metaphysics. The difference in China appears to be that she has never let go her direct hold on Heaven, but, contrary to the experience of other nations, succeeded in building up a system of government and social life on the basis of her religion, and has maintained the divine relation as a vital reality, the highest functions of government no less than the humbler ceremonies of domestic life being absolutely controlled by the theocratic principle. And who shall say that this high aim, harmonizing the actions of man with the will of Heaven, has not been a true element of cohesion in this people, and of their long endurance on the face of the earth?

It is unfortunate that these venerable cults are unsuited to the exigencies of modern times; just as the religious invaders and ancestral worship incompatible with their doctrine, so do the political invaders and the Son of Heaven.

out of place in their system. Neither the missionaries of Christianity nor of politics, however, will be deterred by this, and tenderly as they may be disposed to deal with ancient legendary growths, there is a power behind them which takes account of no law but that of its own progress, and which, with perhaps intermittent persistence, will push until this huge mass of China gives way, as if before an irresistible flood.

It is no light task, therefore, which the statesmen of China of the present day have before them. The point of union between their political system and the laws of Heaven has been already found for them by their ancestors; what they have now to find is the system of the rest of the world. When we reflect on the real difficulty of this problem, we need not wonder at the deceptions and subterfuges to which the mouthpieces of the Government invariably have recourse to escape from it. The problem which must be solved cannot perhaps be solved; there can be no agreement between the implicit pretensions of the sovereign and the state and the requirements of international life; no true "comity of nations" is possible so long as the ancient Chinese belief holds the field. The claim cannot be unified, and will have to be cut, or gnawed; and it will be better done, by some Emperor or statesman strong enough to cut it, than that some foreign sword should be the instrument.

The best hope of a peaceful solution of these thorny questions seems to lie in the wisdom of the Manchu rulers being directed to the discovery of some reconciling formula whereby the Providence of Heaven may be extended over the new province of their foreign relations. They are comparatively recent comers, and although, like the *nouveau riche* in Gilbert's operetta who adopted the family portraits and crests, they have submitted to incorporation into the Chinese world of thought, the assimilation has not yet been so complete as that they should not retain considerable independence of mind. The greatest of their Emperors have done so. The Chinese tradition about foreigners had taken but slight hold of Kang Hsi, and had not completely mastered Chien Lung, and though doubtless since his day the process of Sinitization has made further progress, there are still some strong minds near the Throne who may on adequate provocation violate this as they have done certain other Chinese traditions. The Edict inviting the foreign Ministers to Audience was issued apparently spontaneously by His Imperial Majesty, and though his intentions have been partially frustrated by Chinese tradition, as interpreted by his Ministers, the Emperor may after all be able to burst the mummy coils in which his limbs are swathed and stand forth in his own person, like the young Emperor of Germany, as a man of his epoch. Where there is a will there is a way.—Chinese Times.

## THE CHINESE CLERK.

The essential point of difference between the life of the Chinese mercantile clerk and that of his European confrere is that he lives on the business premises. He usually has leave to return home to visit his wife and family about three times a month, on which occasions he stops away a day and night. The rest of his life is with the exception of occasional outings on business affairs, or to attend marriages, funerals or other functions, spent entirely in the "general" office with his fellow-clerks. It is here that he sleeps, performs his scanty ablutions, has his head shaved, eats, lounges, smokes, receives his friends, reads his paper or novel, and finally works. When the doors are closed for the night, about 11 o'clock, the servants of the establishment bring in and set up each man's wooden trestle-bed, and unroll his bed coverings, which are again rolled up and stowed away in the morning. His evening toilette is quickly made, as it merely consists in stripping, placing the garments on the top of the coverlet (of course we are speaking of winter), and slipping into bed, whence, after arranging his tail so that it shall fall over the pillow, he soon drops off to sleep, and usually after a morning or two, proves his unconquered by loud and continued snoring. In winter this class of Chinese are not very early risers, the clerks slipping into their clothes about 7.30 or 8 o'clock. Their morning toilette is not much more extensive than the evening. Taking it in turns they roll their tails round their heads, half open the necks of their upper-garments, or sometimes strip to the waist, and with a great deal of puffing, spluttering, and exclamation, wash their faces, necks, and hands in the little bright copper basins. A hot water which the servants or the apprentice has brought in. Further and perfectly sufficient hot-baths may be had at the public bath-houses for 7 cash and upwards, according to the class; but such extra luxury is purely a matter of individual taste. Some Chinese declare that it would hurt their health to take such baths, and remain forever unwashed, while others, including even coolies, make a point of taking regular baths, and are wonderfully clean and sweet by comparison. One "brüber" usually serves the whole establishment, and periodically there is a grand hair-washing and brushing-out of tails. The clerk, indeed, almost all other Chinese men, wear a good deal of false hair, which is most artistically plaited in with the real, by the deft-fingered barber. *En passant* we may remark that the latter, like his foreign brethren, owes a good deal of his importance to his entertaining powers; gossip and scandal-mongering being his forte.

On the completion of his toilette the clerk sets about the serious occupations of the day, amongst the foremost of which stand smoking, tea-drinking, and lounging. He takes, no regular breakfast, but sometimes purchases a savoury *shanghai* from passing vendors, each of whom has his hawkers invited by his whole foreign staff to a large dinner party given at Yeh Tsung-chu, the General Board of Mines at Wuchang.

The dinner was presided over by Tsai Tsai, the chief director of the Board of Mines, assisted by the two sub-directors of the Board and by Mr. Ku, secretary-interpreter to the Viceroy. Amongst the guests from the foreign technical staff were Messrs. H. Hobson (manager of the iron-works), E. Bralve (chief mining engineer), P. Scheldeweller (railway engineer), W. Meyer (rector of the gun and small arms factories), J. Dickinson (architect of the cotton mill), and all the other members of the foreign staff, which now numbers thirteen in all.

The dinner was a long and elaborate one, given after the Chinese style, but with some concessions to the tastes and habits of the foreign guests, so that the unskilled in the manipulation of chopsticks were not obliged to fast for the sixteen or twenty courses of dishes that came forward, to say nothing of the numerous porcelain dishes that stood in the middle of the table, filled with all kinds of cold meat, vegetables, sweets, currants and fruits, forming the gayest and most variegated decoration. After the numerous cups of Chinese hot wine had been poured out, the most serious of the rules of Celestial etiquette was made in the appearance of the sparkling champagne which was welcomed with happy smiles by all. At this very solemn moment, Mr. Scheldeweller rose and as the "oldest hand" in China, in the name of the whole staff, proposed the health of Chang, the Viceroy,

If guests are present "samsu" is poured out during the first part of the meal, i.e., until the arrival of the rice, when the cups are cleared away. The first, consisting of, usually, four dishes, is well-cooked, well flavoured, varied, and nourishing. Nothing is bought out of season, the clerk unconsciously following the precepts of Rousseau—crabs, shrimps, fish, wild duck, mutton, and vegetables are in turn eaten when most plentiful and cheapest, and therefore in season and at their best. Pork, duck, shank's-head, swallow's-nests, and such luxuries, generally supposed to be the staple food of the Chinese, are never eaten in the north, except on high-days and holidays, during the new year, and at restaurants, on account of their cost. Rice, of course, is the chief item in the every-day meal and is eaten like bread in a French restaurant, *a discretion*. The juniors sit first from the table, starting with the apprentice, leaving the managers to prolong their *samsu*. Cups of water are standing ready, with which to rinse out the mouth, and a cloth and basin for ablutions. Then the managers retire to their room and the clerk starts smoking and drinking tea preparatory to taking his afternoon nap. Darkness comes on, the lamp and candles are lit, occasional clients continue to drop in, the evening meal is prepared, and so the monotonous day wears itself out, to be followed by an exactly similar one to-morrow. The work done, as we have hinted, is of the lightest, the hours being principally consumed in gossiping, sleeping, and loafing. After supper the cook's account is entered in the *Liu shu chang*, the flowing water, or "current," account-book. Gradually the noises in the street die away, clients with their lanterns become fewer and fewer, most of the clerks fall asleep in uncomfortable positions in chairs with their heads on the table, and at last the day is finished by the street-door being shut and barred at eleven.

This existence, which to a European would be unendurable, exactly suits the temperament of our Chinese friends. It is a lotus-eating sort of life, which follows a dead level, and while knowing none of the exaltation of real vicissitudes, yet escapes the corresponding depression. The clerk is contented to moon through life, with just enough education to enable him to write his accounts or read an easy novel, or even puzzle through an article written in *wen-hua*; his passive amusements consisting of bird and cricket fancying, of an occasional treat at the theatre, or feast at a restaurant. His salary of six dollars a month amply suffices for his wants, since while in the office, he has no expenses, even his clothes being mostly inherited from his father and his under-linen made by his wife.

Altogether he is a harmless sort of being, living in his little world of the office with no thought for anything beyond its horizon; his only anxieties, his dinner, his bird, or the value of a polished thumbing he has bought, and so we must leave him.—Chinese Times.

## CHINAN FU.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

15th February, 1891.

Within the last few days some more changes have taken place among the officials in this city. The new Provincial Judge, Tsao Ping-chih, was taken suddenly ill and died last week. Just before he breathed his last, and while in an unconscious state, the foreign physician, Dr. Neal, was sent for, but it was too late to do anything. It is reported that the main cause of his death was due to a mistake made in the use of some native prescription. He had assumed office only a little over two months, and leaves a family with shattered ambitions. One of the Tsaitais, Chao Kuei-hua, is appointed to temporarily fill the vacancy.

The Salt Commissioner, Feng Shen-ai, is compelled to go into mourning, and the regular Tsaitai, Wang Tso-fen, is appointed temporarily to fill his place. The Tsaitai's place is filled by an expectant Tsaitai by the name of Huang.

It is now nearly two weeks since the German Consul, Baron von Seckendorff, returned from his visit to the German Missions and to the cities of Yenchow Fu and Ching-chow. In the former city he was mobbed by over 10,000 persons, but was uninjured. On his return here he had another interview with the Governor, and some good results have been secured. The land that was purchased in Yenchow Fu over three years ago by the Mission has been promised to be allowed them, and that, too, with protection. One of the houses purchased about the same time in Ching-chow, and which also resulted in a riot, will revert to the missionaries. The official at Ching-chow has also issued a very satisfactory proclamation, and certain persons were punished who insulted the Baron on his visit to the city. In addition, the magistrates of two districts where the Roman Catholics have been maltreated are to be removed, and other, and we hope, better men are to take their places.

The Consul, while on his visit to Ching-chow, also intervened on behalf of the American missionaries, and in every way commended himself by his ability and catholicity to both Protestants and Romanists.

The riot that occurred against Dr. Hunter at Ching-chow has been reported to the Governor, through Mr. Reid of the police mission, and orders have been issued to the local officials. It is to be hoped, with the settlement of the Catholic troubles, all missionaries may again secure peace and protection.—N. C. Daily News.

## HANYANG.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

27th February, 1891.

On Thursday the 24th instant, on the occasion of the Chinese New-Year festivities, the Viceroy of the Hankow invited his whole foreign staff to a large dinner party given at Yeh Tsung-chu, the General Board of Mines at Wuchang.

The dinner was presided over by Tsai Tsai, the chief director of the Board of Mines, assisted by the two sub-directors of the Board and by Mr. Ku, secretary-interpreter to the Viceroy. Amongst the guests from the foreign technical staff were Messrs. H. Hobson (manager of the iron-works), E. Bralve (chief mining engineer), P. Scheldeweller (railway engineer), W. Meyer (rector of the gun and small arms factories), J. Dickinson (architect of the cotton mill), and all the other members of the foreign staff, which now numbers thirteen in all.

The dinner was a long and elaborate one, given after the Chinese style, but with some concessions to the tastes and habits of the foreign guests, so that the unskilled in the manipulation of chopsticks were not obliged to fast for the sixteen or twenty courses of dishes that came forward, to say nothing of the numerous porcelain dishes that stood in the middle of the table, filled with all kinds of cold meat, vegetables, sweets, currants and fruits, forming the gayest and most variegated decoration. After the numerous cups of Chinese hot wine had been poured out, the most serious of the rules of Celestial etiquette was made in the appearance of the sparkling champagne which was welcomed with happy smiles by all. At this very solemn moment, Mr. Scheldeweller rose and as the "oldest hand" in China, in the name of the whole staff, proposed the health of Chang, the Viceroy,

who has now directed to himself universal attention for the boldness of his schemes and the energy with which he pursues his aims. "Well might China be proud," said he, "of such an eminent official who is hard at work and who has disregarded all the objections of his most conservative and timid countrymen concerning the opening of mines, erection of iron and steel works and building of railways, objections which have also existed in some of the western countries, and that not so many years ago. The speaker did not fail to associate with the name of Viceroy Chang that of his most able chief secretary, his Excellency Tsai Tsaitai, the chief Director of the Board (Hear, hear). The Viceroy could not have found a better man in China who was the right man in the right place. Those who worked daily with him proved his high capacities; he was not only a good Director, but a real friend (hear, hear), under all circumstances, whatever the things or the arduous questions with which they had to bother him, they found him as polite and as kind as ever. The task which these two officials had assumed was a large and noble one, and it was to be hoped for the sake of progress in China that their repeated efforts would be successful and that they would receive the reward of their labour (hear, hear). The whole foreign staff were very proud to give them their assistance."

These words met with universal approbation and were acknowledged by Mr. Ku, who replied in the name of H. E. Tsai, the Viceroy and Chief Director were very much pleased with the services of the technical assistants. Good work had been done during the last year, and it was to be hoped that at the meeting next year their thankfulness would again be expressed.

Later on in the evening the assembly became less solemn. The time had come for happy thoughts and merry songs, and many of the grave engineers showed that they could as well master a romance or a comic song as they could an engineering difficulty. After the dinner, Mr. Kocks, one of the mining engineers, took a photograph of the members of the staff, and it will remain as the best reminiscence of a most agreeable meeting.

It has been stated above that the foreign staff now consists of thirteen members. It has very recently been increased by the arrival of Messrs. Johnson and Harrison. The former came out as head draughtsman for the iron and steel works. Mr. Harrison is a foreman brickmaker; he has brought out a whole plant for the making of bricks and tiles that will enable him to manufacture from 30,000 to 40,000 a day. Large quantities of bricks are required here, and the native supply is so inferior in quality that they can only be used for very rough work.

I have to reserve for my next letter some details about the railway that will be constructed in this province for conveying the iron ore from the mines to the Yangtze.—N. C. Daily News.

## TIENTSIN.

February 10th, 1891.

There is very little going on at this port worth communicating, but I am informed that the audience of the Foreign Ministers with the Emperor will come off after all.

I hear that Li Hung-chang will not go to Chefoo to meet the Czarévitch.

I regret to inform you that Mr. Leith, Agent for the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, has been ill for some time, and goes home to be healed. Mr. A. W. Maitland comes here from Hongkong as agent.

The China New-year passed off quietly; all the officials went early to wish Li Hung-chang a happy new-year, and the Viceroy returned the compliment to-day. The foreign Consuls also paid Li and the Customs Tsaitai a visit. Both these gentlemen were in excellent health and spirits.

It is as good as fixed that another canal, half-way between here and Taku, on the west bank of the Peiho river, is to be cut, in a south-west direction, into the Gulf of Pechili, to the Yen-ho, which flows 40 miles south of Taku. This will make on the west bank of the Peiho, between here and Taku, five canals across the country, independent of those on the east side of the Pei-ho. Mr. A. Lind, formerly of the Imperial Chinese Telegraph Administration, is to superintend the cutting.

February 23rd, 1891.

The Kaiping people are against the Shantung mines being worked, the foreign principle, and have strongly petitioned the Government to that effect.

China has taken a new departure at last in regard to mining in Manchuria and Shantung. Li Hung-chang is still opposed to the new departure and clings to "China for the Chinese only," but the Hsin Chai yamen has, by latest advice from Peking, taken in hand the Jehol silver mines, and the Peking gold and iron mines. Before long you will hear more about these undertakings.—Shanghai Mercury.

February 21st, 1891.

The ice has disappeared from the mouth of the river, the gulf being quite clear. The thickness of the ice in the river at Taku this morning was 53 in. and so rotten that *tsu-dahs* have ceased running. It is expected that the ice will break up, at any rate from Tongku to the forts, either to-morrow or next day.

The state of the river has been long a subject of serious consideration to the local government, as the sailing of the upper reaches which has rendered the port inaccessible for steamers for the greater part of several seasons has placed a heavy burden on trade, which has lately been felt by natives as well as foreigners. The necessity for trying some means to ameliorate the situation has now been recognized in a practical manner; on Thursday a commission from the Viceroy consisting of the Tientsin Tsaitai, the Hsin Chai Tsaitai, and the Commissioner of Customs, went down the river, by the Taku Road, for the purpose of examining the heads between Tientsin and the Nine Forts, which they did in a pretty thorough manner, crossing and recrossing the river at several places. A conference of the various officials concerned was held yesterday, but the result has not reached us.

A commissioner or agent from Korea has been in Tientsin all the winter trying to persuade Li Hung-chang to withdraw the orders requiring the Korean envoys abroad to be introduced to foreign courts by the Chinese Ministers. The arguments used by the Korean agent are precisely those which have been current among the foreign adventurers in Seoul, and seem to make very little impression on the Viceroy. The despatch of representatives abroad by the King of Korea was doubt an unfortunate step, and was rendered much worse by the disgraceful way it was carried out. For the first error China is largely responsible; for the second, America; and it is not surprising if the White House should wish to purge itself of the scandal in which Washington society was implicated by the introduction of camp-followers under the guidance of Americans who knew better. If the Korean gentleman now speaks truly, dissatisfaction at Washington is the chief motive at present for the Korean government desiring to be rehabilitated by China.—China Times.



## THE EAST BORNEO PLANTING COMPANY, LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders of the above Company was held at the offices of Messrs. Gibb, Livingston & Co. at noon on the 16th inst. for the purpose of confirming a resolution passed on the 27th ult. There were present:—Mr. B. Layton (Chairman), Messrs. H. L. Dalrymple, A. P. Stokes, C. S. Sharp (Directors), S. L. Dwyer, W. Judd, W. H. Ray and C. E. Harton (Secretary).

The Chairman said the meeting was purely a formal one, called for the purpose of confirming a resolution passed on the 27th ult. He proposed that the provisions of the Companies Ordinance 1865-1866, and that C. S. Sharp and L. Hallward, both of Hongkong, be, and they are hereby, appointed Liquidators for the purposes of such winding up.

Mr. Dalrymple seconded. The motion was carried unanimously, and the meeting closed.

## THE SONGEI KOYAH PLANTING COMPANY, LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of the above Company was held at the offices of the General Managers (Messrs. Gibb, Livingston & Co.) on the 16th inst. for the purpose of confirming a resolution passed on the 27th ult. There were present:—Messrs. B. Layton (Chairman), H. L. Dalrymple, A. P. Stokes, W. Judd, W. H. Ray, C. S. Sharp, F. A. Gomes, E. A. de Carvalho, and C. E. Harton (Secretary).

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting, Mr. Dalrymple proposed "That the Company be wound up voluntarily under the provisions of the Companies Ordinance 1865-1866, and that C. S. Sharp and L. Hallward, both of Hongkong, be, and they are hereby, appointed Liquidators for the purposes of such winding up."

Mr. Ray seconded. The Chairman put the motion to the meeting, which was carried unanimously.

## THE LAMAG PLANTING COMPANY, LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of the above Company was held at the offices of the General Managers (Messrs. Gibb, Livingston & Co.) on the 16th inst. for the purpose of confirming a resolution passed on the 27th ult. There were present:—Messrs. B. Layton (Chairman), H. L. Dalrymple, A. P. Stokes, W. Judd, W. H. Ray, C. S. Sharp, F. A. Gomes, and C. E. Harton (Secretary).

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting, Mr. Dalrymple proposed "That the Company be wound up voluntarily under the Companies Ordinance 1865-1866, and that C. S. Sharp and L. Hallward, both of Hongkong, be, and they are hereby, appointed Liquidators for the purposes of such winding up."

Mr. Stokes seconded. The Chairman put the motion to the meeting, and it was carried.

## HONGKONG HOTEL COMPANY, LIMITED.

The ordinary half-year meeting of shareholders in the above named Company was held at the Company's Hotel, this afternoon (17th inst.) for the purpose of receiving a Statement of the Accounts of the Company for 31st December, 1890, and the Report of the Directors, and "to discuss matters that might conveniently be brought before the meeting." There were present:—Messrs. D. McCulloch (Chairman), J. H. Cox, J. H. Green, C. S. Sharp, H. G. James, W. H. Wallace, A. G. Stokes, N. J. Robertson, H. T. S. Green, C. A. Ozorio, J. H. Cox, J. G. Philippo, J. S. Perry, R. Lyall (Secretary) and others.

The Chairman in opening the proceedings said:—Gentlemen, with your permission we will take the report and accounts as read. The report, I think, speaks for itself. The Hotel's business for the past six months shows a falling off from local receipts and the number of people passing through here, who were fewer as compared with the last six months of 1889. The current half-year has opened fairly well. At present the Hotel is quite full, and there is every prospect of ample business for some time to come. With regard to the accounts: the "Hotel Property Account" represents the land and buildings now occupied; "Remaining Portion of Marine Lot No. 7" represents the land and building in course of erection on Melcher's old site; "Praya Reclamation" is, of course, the lot now being reclaimed; "Sundry Debtors" are accounts owing to the Company, and the same accounts now reduced to \$9,661.00. On the other side are Debtors. The land has been drawn and is payable on the 15th April, 1891, 14 acres is payable on the 15th April 1891, and the balance is payable on the 15th April 1891. "Sundry Creditors" are the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank \$107,581; interest on Debentures from 18th October to 31st December 1890, \$1,800; Directors' and Auditors' fees \$1,150; and the other items are salaries and other current expenses. The "Net Earnings" of the Hotel, less all charges and expenses in connection with the same, with the exception of what you see stated in the printed accounts, plus the rents of the Hotel's shops. Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be happy to answer any questions in connection with them that shareholders may desire to ask.

Mr. W. H. Gaskell said:—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, for some time past I have tried in vain to obtain certain information regarding the working expenses of the Hotel. Failing in this, I trusted that the desired details, but I find that the document before us, like its predecessors, is so ingeniously contrived, that it is impossible to trace, particularly, or identify any items of expenditure. There is then no recourse left to me but to endeavour at this meeting to elicit from the Directors the information I require. Before putting my questions *seriatim*, I will preface them by stating that in my opinion the Hotel Company is practically insolvent. The Directors have the assurance to ask that the lines of new capital be offered to the shareholders at a premium of 20 per cent when the market quotation of shares is \$120 sellers, and no buyers. The alleged object for "watering" the stock in this manner is to enable the Company to pay off a portion of the existing four lacs of debentures. The whole of this new capital cannot be applied to payment of these debentures, as the finances of the Company are so heavily encumbered by payments to be made on account of the new wing, reclamation &c. Now, Mr. Chairman, it seems to me remarkable that you and your co-directors, have not made an effort to obtain temporary assistance from any of the Land Investment Co., who would probably have been able to render you some aid had you approached them at the proper time and in a proper manner. You, however, have preferred to attempt to double the capital of your Company at an exorbitant premium.

when you can only pay a wretched 6 per cent. by the greatest exertion, on your original capital of 1 lac. I am not aware whether you have good reason to think that the new issue will be subscribed for, or if the Banks will advance on the new shares in view of the fact that all the security the Company can offer is already hypothecated against the debentures. In fact, therefore, of the grave doubts as to the floating of this new issue at a heavy or any premium, I am astounded that you should have so lightly concluded that your liabilities on debenture account could be so easily met. You hope to raise three lacs to meet these other liabilities, but it appears to me that in your present embarrassed position not even five lacs would suffice. The item "Sundry Creditors" \$114,991.92, is a disgrace to the report. Such a large sum should not appear without full details. This method of manipulating accounts has been commented on very severely by many of the shareholders. "Share account" \$16,479.19. This item has also been severely criticised. I do not think that it is within the province of the Directors or of a hotel company to borrow money from the Bank at 7 per cent, and with it speculate in shares. In this connection the Directors deserve the greatest censure, and they ought to be made liable to the Hotel Company for any loss they may have incurred on these shares. The management of the hotel under Mr. Tucker is, to say the least, most casual. The charges he is empowered to make are most immoderate. Complaints are rife from all sides, even from your own tenants, as to his scant courtesy and disobliging manner. I don't think there is anything more I can use fully add, but I trust—albeit I do not expect—to find a better state of things prevailing before your next Report is issued; and I now beg to give you my next questions I have indicated. Now I will thank you, Mr. Chairman, to state how much was paid to the contractor on account of the new North Wing?

The Chairman—You'll find it in the printed accounts.

Mr. Gaskell—But it isn't there?

The Chairman—It is! The "amount transferred from remaining portion of marine lot No. 7" is brought forward from last report.

Mr. Gaskell—But how much has been paid?

The Chairman—It is stated in the accounts. You want give me the information I ask for.

The Chairman—If you'd sent in, before and asked about it I should have been prepared to go into details—now I'm not.

Mr. Gaskell—This is not the first time I've asked questions without getting a satisfactory reply. I have asked the Secretary previously about this and other matters, and have failed to get satisfactory information. Now, as regards "Sundry Creditors" \$114,991.92. Will you kindly tell me how that heavy sum is made up?

The Chairman—We already explained that in my speech, but may add that the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank is a creditor to the extent of \$107,581 for overdrafts.

Mr. Gaskell—Overdrafts against what?

The Chairman—The money has been used in the current business of the Company, but—

Mr. J. H. Cox—Probably a portion of the amount was brought forward from the last half-year's account?

The Chairman—Yes. Really you must give notice of such questions of detail. If you apply to the Office or to the Secretary you will be able to ascertain the matters of detail.

Mr. Gaskell—Can I get the details I want from the Secretary to-morrow? I want full details of the \$114,991.92.

The Chairman—I'll give directions for you to have any I think should be given in the interests of the shareholders.

Mr. Gaskell—To what account is the amount of commission paid out on account of New Wing debited?

The Chairman—It is customary to debit the expenses of the unoccupied portion at 6 per cent. When that comes into occupation the whole building will be charged.

Mr. Gaskell—What are the "Sundry Debtors" amounting to 2,300 odd dollars.

The Chairman—"Sundry Debtors" is now reduced by \$9,661.00, and the other is in course of collection.

Mr. Gaskell—Do you think the other \$11,000 will be collected before the next report?

The Chairman—Yes, if pressure is put on some of them. But they object to being pressed.

Mr. Gaskell—I would like you to say whether shareholders are secured by a first mortgage on the property?

The Chairman—As you yourself drew up the bond you should know very well.

Mr. Gaskell—Considering I did not draw it up, but merely worked out interest tables for you, I really don't know anything about it.

The Chairman said the company was a large holder of the bonds drawn, and he had no doubt those who had drawn bonds would take them up; if not, others would do so.

Mr. Gaskell—I understand they are not satisfied with the security—they have doubts.

The Chairman—That is not so.

Mr. Gaskell—Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Philippo then put some questions relative to the "Share Account," and put a promise from the Chairman that he should be informed on the subject. He also desired to know what amount of commission had been paid to the architect. He heard the "com" amounted to \$3,200. He was told—"It paid it doesn't matter. When it is paid it will be written off and debited in the usual way." After a further question the Chairman said it would be debited to "Property Account." The interrogator then inquired where all the damages to connection recently that an order for 100 bedrooms for travellers on the new Canadian Pacific Co.'s steamer had been received, but that owing to lack of rooms it could not be complied with in full, as some of the people would go elsewhere. He thought the accounts were fairly satisfactory, and had much pleasure in seconding the proposition for their adoption.

The motion was then put to the vote and carried.

Mr. Philippo, after thanking the Chairman for the information vouchsafed, resumed his seat.

The Chairman then formally moved the adoption of the Report and Accounts.

Mr. P. Ryrie, in seconding, said he thought, in spite of some of Mr. Gaskell's remarks, they were decidedly strong, they should give the Board credit for working with fair success while circumstances had been against them. There had been legal expenses, various difficulties in the way, and the running business was not what it might have been. He thought they had not to look very far afield to know the causes of the losses. There have been bad times in this colony, and they were not much better now. He thought the present outlook was favourable and he had no doubt the Board was doing its best to make the concern profitable. With the exception of certain extraneous matters the results, so far, had been fairly satisfactory. All that was wanted was a current of prosperous times to make the concern pay larger dividends than hitherto. The new building would increase the value of the property by making it possible to accommodate more visitors.

He then referred to the new Canadian Pacific Co.'s steamer had been received, but that owing to lack of rooms it could not be complied with in full, as some of the people would go elsewhere. He thought the accounts were fairly satisfactory, and had much pleasure in seconding the proposition for their adoption.

The motion was then put to the vote and carried.

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**DIRECTORS.**  
The Chairman then said the re-election of himself as a Director was before the meeting. Mr. J. H. Cox arose to propose his re-election, but Mr. Philippo, seconded by Mr. Gaskell, was ahead of him, so he resumed his seat at once. The re-election was carried.  
Mr. Ho Tung was also re-elected, upon the motion of Mr. J. H. Cox seconded by Mr. J. S. Perry.  
With the re-appointment of Messrs. J. H. Cox and H. T. S. Green as auditors—upon the motion of Mr. W. H. Wallace seconded by Mr. Philippo—the proceedings closed.

The following is the report:—  
In accordance with Section 53 of the Articles of Association, the Directors have now to submit to you their Half-yearly Report for the six months ending 31st December, 1890.

**BUSINESS.**  
The past half-year has been dull for Hotel business, but as our net earnings are almost identical with those of the corresponding half-year of 1889, the Directors hope that the result may be considered satisfactory.

**PROPERTY.**  
The Premises occupied have been kept in a good state of repair during the past six months and the erection of the New North Wing is progressing satisfactorily.

**SUBDIVISION OF SHARES AND INCREASE OF CAPITAL.**

At Extraordinary Meetings held on the 19th January and 5th February, special resolutions were passed and confirmed to subdivide the Company's \$100 shares into shares of \$50 each, and to increase the Capital of the Company by \$300,000 by the issue of 6,000 new shares of \$50 each at 20 per cent. premium, to be offered to the present Shareholders, one half of said new capital and premium being payable on 31st instant; and the Directors do not think it will be necessary to call up the balance, at least not for some very considerable time.

**DEBENTURES.**  
On 9th instant 200 of the Company's Debentures, representing the sum of \$100,000, were drawn, and are repayable on 19th proximo.

**PROFIT AND LOSS.**  
The accounts for the past half-year, after deducting Interest, Fire Insurance, and Taxes, and making provision for bad and doubtful debts, show a profit of \$7,920.20, to which has to be added the sum of \$3,477.10 brought forward from last account, making available \$11,397.30, which the Directors, with the sanction of the Shareholders, propose to deal with as follows:—

To pay a Dividend of \$3 per share of \$100..... \$9,000.00  
To carry forward to new account..... 2,397.30  
\$11,397.30

**DIRECTORS.**  
Mr. D. McCulloch and Mr. Ho Tung retire by rotation, but are eligible for re-election.

**AUDIT.**  
The accounts have been audited by Messrs. J. H. Cox and H. T. S. Green.

D. MC CULLOCH, Chairman.

Hongkong, 11th March, 1891.

**BALANCE SHEET, 31ST DECEMBER, 1890.**

**Assets.**  
Hotel Property on Marine Lot No. 5, and on the Remaining portion of Marine Lot No. 3 as per last Report..... \$305,000.00  
Amount transferred from the Remaining portion of Marine Lot No. 7 annexed to this Property, on the North Wing..... \$155,284.48  
Since added..... 460,284.48

**Liabilities.**  
Furniture Account, as per last Report..... \$40,159.43  
Transferred from New Wing..... 20,831.67  
Since added..... 60,241.10

Less a claim received..... 1,485.17  
61,726.27

Remaining portion of Marine Lot No. 7, as per last Report..... \$331,591.17  
Deduct amount transferred to Hotel Property as above..... 155,284.48  
Since added..... 184,578.68

Cash..... 1,508.75  
Share Account, as per last Report..... 15,470.19  
Since added..... 1,000.00  
16,470.19

Security Account, Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, as per last Report, Sundry Debtors..... 32,500.00  
Stock of Wines and Provisions..... 19,074.90  
Licences attaching to 1891..... 548.34  
Steam Launch, as per last Report..... 3,000.00  
Contingency Account, as per last Report..... 3,944.75  
Praya Reclamation, as per last Report..... 5,570.09  
Since added..... 334.28  
5,904.29

Furniture for the Remaining portion of Marine Lot No. 7..... 16,517.93  
\$826,615.23

**Liabilities.**  
Paid-up Capital on 5,000 Shares..... \$500,000.00  
Hongkong Hotel Co., Limited, 800 (6 per cent.) Debentures of \$50 each..... 400,000.00  
Sundry Creditors..... 114,093.92  
Unpaid Dividend..... 224.00  
Profit brought forward from last account..... \$ 3,477.10  
Profit for the half-year ending 31st Dec., 1890..... 7,920.20  
\$826,615.23

**PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, For the 6 Months to 31st December, 1890.**

To Taxes..... \$ 208.24  
To Directors' and Auditors' fees..... 1,150.00  
Salaries..... 610.00  
Fire Insurance..... 398.64  
Interest..... 7,772.49  
For Legal expenses paid to Johnson, Stokes and Master, in the suit between them and the Hotel Co., London, for services rendered to the Company..... 2,688.44  
Remuneration to Tulloch & Co., London, for services rendered to the Company..... 264.96  
Opening Accounts on 1st Dec. 1889..... 11,397.30

By Balance brought forward..... 11,397.30  
By Net Earnings of Hotel..... 7,920.20  
By Bonus and Dividends from local Offices..... 347.50  
By Balance brought forward..... 22,000.54  
By Net Earnings of Hotel..... 7,920.20  
By Bonus and Dividends from local Offices..... 347.50  
By Balance brought forward..... 22,000.54

Less a claim received..... 1,485.17  
By Balance brought forward..... 22,000.54  
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By Bonus and Dividends from local Offices..... 347.50  
By Balance brought forward..... 22,000.54

for Kuhn & Co. and Architect's commission for superintending same..... 543.00  
Sundry repairs to new Office and old Bar..... 171.20  
Expenses and Passage money from London of Hotel clerk, Mr. Charles Mundy..... 343.77  
Less a claim received..... 50.00  
To Balance..... 3,940.97  
By Net Earnings of Hotel..... 7,920.20  
By Bonus and Dividends from local Offices..... 347.50  
By Balance brought forward..... 22,000.54

Hongkong, 9th March, 1891.

R. LYALL, Secretary.

We have compared the above Statement with the Books and Vouchers of the Company, and have found the same to be in accordance therewith.

JAMES H. COX, H. T. S. GREEN, Auditors.

**HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.**

The following is the Committee's report for the year ended 31st December, 1890, which will be presented at the annual meeting of members, convened for Friday the 20th March:—

**CONVENTION BETWEEN THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND THE TELEGRAPH COMPANIES.**

The position of affairs as regards the much discussed action on the part of the Telegraph Companies has not materially changed since last year inasmuch as up to the present time the Convention remains unratified. Your Committee considered that probably the most effective manner of opposing the convention would be to direct appeal to Her Majesty. A petition was accordingly drawn up, and an invitation to other Chambers in China and Japan to co-operate met with a ready response. The petition prayed that Her Majesty would be graciously pleased to withhold her sanction to the ratification of the Convention, and among other contentions prominence was given to the fact that any approach to granting a monopoly or exclusive privileges was calculated to endanger the rights conveyed by the "most favoured Nation" clause in the existing treaties between Her Majesty and the Emperor of China. The Chambers of Amoy, Foochow, Hankow, Higo, Shanghai, Tientsin and Yokohama supported the petition which was widely circulated and, as shown in annexed copies of correspondence, generally approved. The petition was forwarded through the local Government and duly acknowledged; eliciting the following remarks from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies as detailed in the Colonial Secretary's letters of 29th October, and 22nd November:—"That the question of the Convention between China and the Telegraph Companies is now in abeyance, and the representations of your Chamber on the subject will be considered by Her Majesty's Government," and "That the question of the Convention made in 1887 between the Chinese Government and the Telegraph Companies is now in abeyance, and that the representations of the Petitioners will be considered by Her Majesty's Government."

**ADDITIONAL ARTICLES IN THE CHEFOO CONVENTION (OPENING OF CHUNGKING).**

The advantages that might naturally be expected to follow the opening of another port to foreign trade promise to be greatly minimized by the restrictive conditions with which the trade of Chungking is hampered, the employment of steamers not being permitted. The Committee when corresponding with London on the subject strongly deprecated relinquishing the right of free navigation of the Upper Yangtze, and regretted that Her Majesty's Minister at Peking was, apparently, not instructed to oppose the vacillating and temporizing policy of the Chinese Government, who, by persistent obstructiveness at every stage of the proceedings secured them a diplomatic victory which will certainly not smooth the way for further negotiations at a future date. Your Committee also regret that the invaluable rights which were conferred by the Chinese Government under the Chefoo Convention, that the port of Chungking should be open to foreign commerce on a steamer being able to enter that port should have been so lightly abandoned by the British Government.

**ORDINANCES TO AMEND THE LAWS RELATING TO THE REGISTRATION OF TRADE MARKS, AND TO FRAUDULENT MARKS ON MERCHANDISE.**

The Committee, in replying to a request by His Excellency the Governor to express their views on the above Ordinance, stated as regards the first that they were inclined to think increased legislative powers in that direction hardly necessary. It appeared to them that to carry out the objects contemplated in the Ordinance with perfect efficiency would require the maintenance of a staff and involve an expenditure incompatible with the trade requirements of the Colony. An elaborate system of registration of the United Kingdom gives protection to the owners of trade marks who can further protect themselves hereby registration under the existing Ordinance, and there are at present no local productions that appear likely to seek special protection. As regards the second Ordinance they considered it also aimed at an increased scope of legislative power which in the present position of the trade seemed hardly required.

**EMIGRATION OF CHINESE COOLIES FROM SWATOW TO BRITISH NORTH BORNEO.**

Her Britannic Majesty's Officiating Consul draw the attention of the Chamber to an apparent misapprehension that had arisen regarding the emigration of Chinese coolies from the above port to British North Borneo by British steamers. He pointed out that at his request official notices had been posted by the Taoist informing the natives "that they were at perfect liberty to emigrate to that country in steamers employed by any British Merchant in Swatow." Notwithstanding this permission no emigration can, as yet, take place from Swatow.

**LIGHTHOUSE BOARD.**

The Committee have continued to impress upon the Government the desirability of the appointment of such a Board, arguing that any proposal calculated to promote the interests of shipping business in Hongkong was deserving of every consideration. The Committee assumed that among other duties devolving upon the Board would be the supervision of Lighthouses, the regulation and collection of dues, and their appropriation to the specific purposes for which they are levied. It was suggested that the Board should comprise of two members appointed by the Government, one of whom should always be Chairman, and two others appointed by this Chamber. The importance of the figures involved is shown in the following Returns obtained from the Government by the Hon. P. Ryrie on behalf of the Chamber.

Between 1875 and 1889, both years inclusive, the amount of light dues collected was..... \$341,676.17  
Against expenditure for original cost of Lighthouses and upkeep during that period..... \$161,738.57  
Leaving a balance of Revenue over..... \$179,937.60

The question of a Board was first mooted in the Legislative Council on 12th February, 1890, and favourably commented on by His Excellency the Governor, whose opinions, apparently, have since materially altered, as in reply to a question put by the Hon. T. H. Whitehead (the Chamber's representative) in the Legislative Council on the 5th instant his Excellency stated:—

"I will answer that question myself. In reply to the first part I may say that no steps have been taken. I have also to say that the Government have no proposals and that they have no intention at present of taking any steps in the matter. I can only take up the subject when it is clearly shown to me—which has not been shown yet—that some work of the Government is ill done which a Lighthouse Board could do better. I have only had suggestions made to me, but when I am convinced it will be my duty to take the matter up fully. I am not yet convinced, and I cannot see that there would be any immediate advantage by doing things in the way you suggest."

**DIRECT CABLE COMMUNICATION WITH GAP ROCK.**

The attention of the Government was called to the desirability of connecting the Gap Rock Light-house with Hongkong either by telegraph, or by practicable by telephone. Such a connection would possess the double advantage of keeping up communication between the authorities and their employees at such times as the weather rendered ordinary intercourse dangerous or impossible, and of affording early information of the approach of vessels from the South. The expenditure would be considerable, but the Committee think the ends aimed would justify a large outlay, the funds for which might be easily raised if such a course was found desirable. From information received from Mr. Judd, Manager of the Eastern Extension, Australian and China Telegraph Company, it appears that the most suitable description of cable would cost £11,500, while one of lighter construction could be obtained for £9,650.

**DANGERS TO NAVIGATION CLOSE TO GAP ROCK.**

A notification appeared in the *Government Gazette* of 6th September last, calling attention to the existence of several dangers close to the Gap Rock, and warning shipmasters not to approach on either side closer than 12 cables length. The Committee addressed Commodore Church on the subject and











SIX DOLLARS  
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31  
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**MELCHERS & Co.,**  
Sole Agents,  
Hongkong, 18th March, 1891.



## Intimations.

DAKIN BROS. OF CHINA, LIMITED.  
DISPENSING CHEMISTS, &c.

**PURE WINES.**  
We beg to invite careful attention to the following selection from our Wine List, for we have succeeded in combining purity and excellence of quality with moderate prices.

**SHERREY.**  
per case, per bottle.  
Vino Generoso—a generous round wine, green seal... \$6.00 \$0.60  
Vino Depato—a medium dry wine with delicate flavour, red seal... \$10.00 \$1.00  
Amontillado—high class natural wine for connoisseurs of Sherry, yellow seal... \$12.00 \$1.10  
Delicious—the very finest sherry procurable, 6 years in bottle... \$14.00 \$1.25

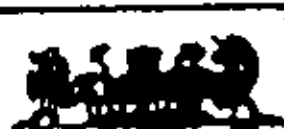
**PORT.**  
Superior quality... \$10.00 \$1.00  
Invalid Port, gold seal... \$12.00 \$1.10  
Old Tawny, soft and mature... \$14.00 \$1.25  
Black seal... \$10.00 \$1.00  
Specially selected old vintage... \$10.00 \$1.75

**BURGUNDY.**  
Beune—a full-bodied Red Burgundy with strengthening properties... \$14.00 \$1.25  
Chablis—a mellow White Burgundy, fine flavour and bouquet... \$14.00 \$1.25

**CHAMPAGNE.**  
Ariste—a well matured, specially selected dry wine... \$8.00 \$1.75  
Lemoine—Vin blanc—Cuvée Royale. As supplied regularly to the Prince of Wales, House of Commons, and the chief clubs in London, &c... \$12.00 \$2.00  
Per case of 24 plants... \$23.00 \$1.00

We are sole Agents in China for the Sale of this splendid Wine.

(Telephone No. 60.)

Nos. 22 & 24, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.  
Hongkong, 9th March, 1891.

BY APPOINTMENT.

## WINES AND SPIRITS.

## A. S. WATSON &amp; CO., LTD.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

## MANUFACTURERS OF AERATED WATERS.

Our New Factory has been recently refitted with automatic Steam Machinery of the latest and most approved kind, and we are well able to compete in quality with the best English Makers.

The purest ingredients only are used, and the utmost care and cleanliness are exercised in the manufacture throughout.

## LARGE BOMBAY "SODAS"

We continue to supply large bottles as heretofore, free of Extra Charge, to those of our Customers who prefer to have them to the ordinary size.

**COAST PORT ORDERS.** whenever practicable, are despatched by first steamer leaving after receipt of order.

FOR COAST PORTS, Waters are packed and placed on board ship at Hongkong prices, and the full amount allowed for Packages and Empties when received in good order.

Counterfoil Order Books supplied on application.

Our Registered Telegraphic Address is, "DISPENSARY, HONGKONG," and all signed messages addressed thus will receive prompt attention.

The following is a List of Waters always kept ready in Stock—

**PURE AERATED WATERS**  
**SODA WATER**  
**LEMONADE**  
**POTASH WATER**  
**SALTZETZ WATER**

**LITHIA WATER**  
**SARSAPARILLA WATER**  
**TONIC WATER**  
**GINGER ALE**  
**GINGERADE.**

No Credit given for bottles that look dirty, or greasy, or that appear to have been used for any other purpose than that of containing Aerated Water, as such bottles are never used again by us.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED,  
Hongkong, China, and Manila.

15

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1891.

## A MILITARY PROPHECY.

LORD WOLSELEY, Britain's 'only General,' and a pen-and-ink soldier at that, has been trying his 'prentice hand' at prophecy in a recent issue of the *Review of Reviews*.

He says China is the coming nation, and that the Mongolians will over-run the world. Here are a few chunks of wisdom from the pen of the pipe-clay warrior who didn't relieve Gordon at Khartoum:

"The battle of Armageddon will take place between the Chinese and the English-speaking races. There will be, I assume, another war about the bloodiest war of series of wars which we have seen in Europe. But, someday, a great general or lawgiver will arise in China, and the Chinese, who have been motionless for three centuries, will begin to progress. They will take to the profession of arms, and then they will hurl themselves upon the Russian Empire. Before the Chinese armies—as they possess every military virtue, are stolidly indifferent to death, and capable of inexhaustible endurance. The Russians will go down. Then the Chinese armies will march westward. They will over-run India, sweeping us into the sea. Asia will belong to them, and then, at last, English, Americans, Australians, will have to rally for a last desperate conflict. So certain do I regard this, that I think one fixed point of our policy should be to strain every nerve and make every sacrifice to keep on good terms with China. China is a great power."

It's a far cry from Dublin Castle to Canton, and not to put too fine a point on it, the present Commander-in-Chief of the British forces in Ireland, in the foregoing language of ignorant twaddle, writes himself

down a long-eared ass. Lord Wolseley's assumption as to another war between France and Germany, which he says will be the bloodiest war ever seen in Europe, may or may not be well founded—probably it is—, but when he enters on Chinese territory his superficial knowledge cannot be hidden. He confidently prophesies that some day a great general or lawgiver will arise in China, and the Chinese, who have been motionless for three centuries, will then begin to progress. China flatters itself at the present moment that it possesses not one but many law-givers, who can doubly discount the legal lights of all other nations, and we must admit that CHAO CHIH-TUNG, LI HUNG-CHANG, and several of the sages of the Tsung-li Yamen would take a lot of beating in any branch of practical diplomacy. As law-giving, pure and simple, that in China is all but universally influenced by the forcible persuasion of that simple and homely article, the national bamboo. Whether China can boast of any great generals we really are not in a position to say; if they were judged from the standpoint of European military science they would probably be found sadly wanting, although brave enough in the field and perfect masters of strategy according to Chinese ideas. His Excellency Liu Ming CHUAN, Governor of Formosa, bears the reputation of being a courageous and skilful soldier, and it is undoubted that he more than held his own against the French troops when Admiral DE LESPERS attacked Tamsui; but acting on the defensive behind earthworks is one thing and marshalling and directing an army in the open field is quite another. There were other Chinese commanders who fought gallantly and with a fair amount of success against the French commanders in the Tonquin affair; but it would be the height of folly to pretend that the whole Chinese Army contains one general capable of conducting a campaign on anything like even terms with the faintest prospect of success against an army commanded by a skilled European.

And who told Lord Wolseley that the Chinese Empire had been standing still for three centuries? How a man in his lordship's position can lay himself open to ridicule by making such absurd statements it is not easy to imagine. Lord Wolseley must know that within the past sixty years China has been going slowly but steadily ahead; that she has had wars on four occasions with European Powers—with Great Britain twice, with France and with Russia;—that, once isolated from the rest of the world, she has now international relations and commerce with all nations; that steamers flying the dragon flag sail on every sea; that huge iron-clads and fast-steaming torpedo craft have taken the place of the old fashioned junk; that the Empire is intersected with telegraph wires, while railways, electric lighting, water-works on foreign principles, mining in every branch, and other foreign innovations are making progress everywhere. And this is what Lord Wolseley terms "standing still."

His lordship is also entirely wrong in his estimate of the Chinese as soldiers; he says they possess every military virtue, are stolidly indifferent to death, and capable of inexhaustible endurance. Greater nonsense was never seen in print. The Chinese are undoubtedly brave, and when well led will seldom go back; but they are not amenable to strict discipline, they are easily driven into a panic, their alleged extraordinary endurance is a myth, their physical weakness would never stand against a rush with the bayonet of a foreign army, they do not possess one iota of what Englishmen call dash and Frenchmen *fiat*, and they don't like fighting and wouldn't be soldiers if they could be anything else. Add to all this, that, with the exception of LI HUNG-CHANG's foreign-drilled contingent in Chihli and a few detachments on the Mongolian frontiers, China has no regular army, nothing but a heterogeneous mass of coolies and ragamuffins, armed with ancient muskets that won't go off, bows and arrows, tridents, spears and other gruesome weapons that are only fit for a museum.

The conqueror of ARABIE PASHA may set his mind at rest. China has no intention of hurling itself upon the Russian Empire; in the wildest dreams of its most ambitious and pugnacious rulers the idea of over-running India and sweeping us into the sea has never found a place; and the general or statesman who seriously proposed to the Dragon Throne to make a clean sweep of England, America and Australia, would be shorter by a head before he had time to think twice. China is not a military nation, she has no ambitious schemes of conquest, and she only wants to be left alone to pursue her destiny in her own way. For the protection of her own rights she will fight stubbornly against all comers, but outside the limits of the MIDDLE KINGDOM and its dependencies she has no desire for conquest, and if

that desire did exist she has no power to carry it out. The next time Lord Wolseley rushes into print regarding matters Chinese, it would be just as well if he took the trouble to verify the ridiculous impressions he appears to have formed on mere hearsay, or the idle chatter of some irresponsible globe-trotter.

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## TELEGRAMS.

## CONTINUED SEVERE WEATHER IN ENGLAND.

LONDON, March 18th.

There has been a blizzard of unexampled violence in Great Britain. Trains were blocked all night in the south-east of England, and the Channel packets were to hours late in arriving at their destination. The Lydd lifeboat in going to some wrecks was capsized, and seven of the crew were drowned. The fall of snow in London is unabated.

## FANCY PRICE FOR CEYLON TEA.

A small lot of tea from the Gartmore Estate has been sold at ten pounds twelve shillings and six pence per pound.

## BRITISH STEAMER SEIZED BY PORTUGUESE.

March 17th.

The Portuguese have seized a British steamer on the Limpopo river. The *Times* says that Portugal must be held accountable for the outrage.

## LOCAL AND GENERAL.

Fox the first time in its history the United States last year produced more pig-iron than Great Britain.

We are requested to remind the friends of the Warrant officers and Garrison staff that the usual practice dance will be held this evening at the Commalesarist Buildings.

AMONGST the arrivals to-day we note that of the *Mila Shakespeare* Company. As already notified the company will give their first performance at the Theatre Royal on Saturday night.

THE nominal fine of four Mexicans was imposed by the magistrate this morning upon a hawker caught in possession of 1½ tins of prepared opium without a certificate from the Opium Farmer.

MADAME PATEY'S Scotch concert at the Theatre Royal, City Hall, last night, was well attended and proved a most gratifying success. A detailed report is unavoidably held over until to-morrow.

"FILL your mind with useful information, my young friend," said the missionary. "Remember the empty bag cannot stand upright." "What's the matter with Baldwin's balloon?" asked the irreverent youth.

How is this for high? An American paper says that in the Taeping rebellion of a third of a century ago in China, the Emperor raised a large army of women to assist his male soldiers in saving the Empire.

MESSRS. Adamson, Bell & Co., agents for the Canadian-Pacific Line, inform that the steamer *Empress of India* has left Singapore, and is due here on Monday afternoon. The *St. Albans* was delivered in New York on the 14th inst.

We understand it is the intention of the officers of the A. & S. Highlanders to give a ball on the 22nd prox. at the City Hall, in honour of the twelfth anniversary of the battle of Chancellorsville. This battle, in which the first took a prominent part was fought on the 2nd April, 1879, and resulted in the Zulus being routed with great loss.

PYTHAGORAS, the philosopher, used the letter Y as a symbol of human life. "Remember," he wrote, "that the path of virtue and vice resemble the letter Y, the foot representing infancy, and the forked top the two paths of vice and virtue, one or the other of which people are to enter upon after attaining the age of discretion." Why, certainly.

FAN KAI, P.C. 397, who was charged with taking part in the armed attack on a house in D'Almeida Street on the 8th ult., and who was committed for trial at the Criminal Sessions, which closed yesterday, will re-appear before Mr. Wise to-morrow, owing to the Attorney-General having sent the case back to the Magistrate for further investigation.

THE report of the proceedings at the meeting of the Legislative Council last afternoon in connection with the Military Contribution, will be found in another part of this issue. We shall deal at length with the subject at an early date, and meanwhile we are glad to see the unofficial members at last taking up a firm position against what can only be properly described as disgraceful official conduct.

OUR hard worked Officials, acting or otherwise, may be interested to know that there are more public holidays in Honolulu than in any other city in the world. Among the days observed are Queen's Birthday, Coronation Day, all the French and Portuguese holidays, the American Thanksgiving Day, and the Chinese New Year, as well as all the public holidays peculiar to the gay and festive Honolulu customs themselves.

A MEETING of creditors of Leung Yan Shan, alias Leung Ah Yon, who lately carried on business as a ship-chandler and compradore under the style of Shing Hing, No. 60, Praya Central, was held at the Registrar's Office this morning. At the last meeting, a fortnight ago, the bankrupt was ordered to make out a list of debtors and furnish a correct balance sheet, but this he failed to do and the case was adjourned till to-morrow morning.

THE monthly smoking concert of the Garrison Staff mess was held last evening in their commodious room, Queen's Road. The readings, recitations, songs and musical selections were carried out with their usual zest, to the accompaniment of a piano and two violins. Mr. Reed favoured the company with a note on the beg-pipes which was fully appreciated and a reading given by Sergt. Major Meredith was received with great applause. The musical selections being passed, the concert was brought to a close by the national anthem.

MARTIME powers, says the *N. Y. Maritime Register*, are fast appreciating the usefulness of oil as a way queller. England has already made a law relating to the use of oil for this purpose. The Norwegian Vintas have made a regulation requiring that in future all vessels exceeding 500 tons must have on board at least five and all other smaller vessels at least three bags or other appliances for the distribution of oil over heavy seas. American shipmasters are not backward in using oil on heavy seas, but there are some who yet remain sceptical, and a regulation making the use of oil obligatory would not, therefore, be popular.

CARDINAL Manning is eighty-two years old and Gladstone eighty-one. When these two old cronies get together and talk about their boyhood's days, they are as happy as Hongkong brokers after a settlement day.

A FEW days ago a Chinaman, caught in the act of "running" some 30 tins of opium ashore from the *Huangshan*, stated to the magistrate that he did it under orders from the compradore of the boat. The case was remanded to await the arrival of the said compradore from Macao, but as that gentleman is attending the funeral obsequies of one of his relatives in the Holy City, Mr. Wise finished the affair off this morning by ordering the defendant to contribute the sum of \$25 to the revenue of the Colony.

THE ever-gentle, loving and forgiving soul of woman asserted itself lately in one of the New Zealand police-courts. A stout, middle-aged lady was called by the police as a witness in a larceny-case. She came up rather reluctantly, and kissed the Scripture with the air of a person tackling an uncongenial job, and then a bright idea seemed to cross her intellect for she smiled a great, happy smile, and fired the Bible straight at the nearest lawyer's head. He had just time to bob down as the missile grazed his ear, and broke its back against the opposite wall, and then a brawny officer rushed forward and seized the bearer of evidence, and the word of Truth was picked up and dusted, and the court adjourned.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.  
(Before Mr. Fielding Clarke, Puisne Judge.)  
March 19th.

LI YAN V. U. YU.  
This was a claim for \$60.66 as balance due on two promissory notes.  
Mr. Reece, of Messrs. Ewens and Reece, appeared on behalf of the plaintiff, and Mr. Holmes, of Messrs. Holmes and Roddy, for the defendant.

The plaintiff said he was master of the *Mui Loong* shop, No. 9, West Street. The defendant was a contractor and master of the *Chew Yuen* shop. He had had business transactions with the plaintiff, who was a brick and the dealer. His first dealings with him was in February, 1889. By September, 1889, defendant owed plaintiff \$1,210. In payment of that two promissory notes were given by the defendant, the first of which was for \$800, dated 4th September, 1889, and the second \$410, dated 6th September, 1889. The notes were given because plaintiff asked for payment. He said he could not give him any money but he made out the promissory notes. The notes were written by the plaintiff and the defendant signed and chopped them in the presence of the plaintiff and a foki, named Li Yik. On the 28th October, the defendant paid \$640. The defendant sent for the promissory notes on that date and made an endorsement of the payment on the notes, which were sent back to the plaintiff. Plaintiff gave the defendant credit for that sum. The plaintiff had done repairs for defendant and there was at present a balance due of \$60.66.

Cross-examination. The money was due only on the notes. There was also a small amount for goods. The promissory notes were written in plaintiff's shop. The business had been closed since the end of last Chinese year.

The case was adjourned.

MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.  
A meeting of the Legislative Council was held this afternoon. There were present—His Excellency the Governor, Sir G. William de Vaux, K.C.M.G., (President); Mr. W. M. Deane, C.M.G., (Acting Colonial Secretary); Mr. N. G. Mitchell-Innes (Colonial Treasurer); Mr. J. H. Stewart-Lockhart (Registrar-General); Mr. S. Brown (Surveyor-General); Messrs. P. Ryrie, C. F. Chater, T. H. Whitehead, Ho Kai, and J. J. Keswick, (unofficial members), and Mr. A. M. Thomson, Clerk of Councils.

MINUTES.  
The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

## THE MILITARY (EXTRA) CONTRIBUTION.

The Acting Colonial Secretary moved "that the vote for military contribution be considered." His Excellency said before honourable members expressed their views on the subject he thought well that he should explain more clearly the observations which he made on the last occasion, which might have been somewhat misunderstood—or not clearly understood. It appeared to him that the opposition had chiefly arisen owing to the unfortunate mistake of the Imperial Government in making the increase to the contribution provisional—dependent, more or less, on the augmentation to the strength of the Garrison. The question of whether the additional vote was right and just depended on the circumstances, and on the response to the questions: First, having regard to the relative interests of the "mother country" and the Colony, is the proportion of the whole which we are now asked to pay greater than it ought to be in reference to the imperial advantages which we reap by the connection that exists between the two? Second, if not unduly great, is the amount asked for greater than we are able to bear without serious injury to our own present? His Excellency said he would require much consideration by honourable members of the Council to give an answer to the first question. As far as he knew the promise of the Imperial authorities to increase the Forces here was aside from the real question at issue; nevertheless, in as much as the incidental expense was for our own benefit here he could not think the amount the Colony was called upon to bear was an unduly large one, when it was borne in mind that it was only about one-fourth of the total cost of the Military Forces in the Islands, and after making large allowances for the large spaces and buildings occupied and apart from the cost of the up-keep of the fleet, for which the colony paid nothing. He questioned whether anyone, looking at it from that point of view, would declare the demand an unfair one. Then as to the colony's capacity to pay the contribution; that was a question surrounded with more doubt. After giving the subject very full consideration he had no doubt whatever that the colony could pay it without serious injury, but he could only say that for the present moment, in the course of a few years it might be very difficult to pay it, and the question would become a very important one especially as it was indicated in the War Office despatch that the sum now demanded would not be sufficient later on. The gravity in the situation would be increased by that fact if the present condition of the Colony could not be guaranteed for any number of years. As it was clear that no such guarantee could be given, the question of probable future increase was a very important one, as regards the future. This colony was unquestionably regarded by the outside world as very wealthy; the figures in the trade impressed the outside world very largely and justly. But it must, of course, be borne in mind that our wealth almost entirely depended upon local circumstances. Our wealth depended

on our trade, which was far more liable to the sudden injurious fluctuations than was the trade of the United Kingdom. The trade of Hongkong was rather that of a great distributing centre—it exported articles just in the condition in which they were received. But the trade of the United Kingdom consisted largely in the production of manufactures which were exported. The island of St. Thomas, in the West Indies, was a great distributing centre at one time. From it the whole of the West Indies were supplied. To-day St. Thomas was little else than a coal depot for trading steamers—its function had gone. The immediate cause of the transition was to be found in the fact that the merchants of the Indies found it to their advantage to deal direct with the old country, which supplied them with their imports. Now, as regards our relative position to China—which compelled all vessels to pass close to our own doors—Hongkong was in a very much better position than St. Thomas. He merely spoke of St. Thomas for it was in an analogous position, and what had happened there showed how a change in trade might affect an emporium of trade seriously—though Hongkong was, from a geographical point of view, very favourably situated. At the present time Hongkong was suffering from depression attributable to three causes, namely—

(a) The restrictive legislation against the Chinese in Australia and America.

(b) The increased growth of the poppy in China which resulted in a diminution of the foreign (Indian) opium trade.

(c) The decay in the export trade of Chinese tea, owing to the competition caused by the Ceylon and Indian tea.

He was pleased to see, despite the grave causes of depression, that trade in other lines had not fallen off: the tonnage of the port, for instance, had increased. The full effect of the three above named adverse circumstances were not yet estimable, so it was quite possible that the Colony's capacity to pay the amount now demanded might be seriously affected in the course of a few years and become a great hardship to the colony unless the circumstances were materially altered it would be very difficult to pay it. However, he mentioned the matter as a question of the future, and he did not believe that hon. members, taking everything into consideration, would regard it as other than a just and fair demand. On the other hand he felt sure that had it not been for the unfortunate promise of the War Office referred to the unofficial members would not have opposed the vote. He gathered that the opposition depended almost entirely on the unfortunate representations made when the vote was first urged on their attention. He had no doubt but that the increase of troops was put in the foreground, and therefore it was the more unfortunate that the promise was not fulfilled. But if the demand was a just one—and he believed he had shown valid reasons that it was—then it appeared to him that the mere failure of the promise had nothing to do with it; there was, doubtless, ground for complaint, but no ground for refusing to vote the money which hon. members would undoubtedly have voted but for the mistake referred to.

His Excellency then put the matter very plainly by means of a *simile*; using A to represent the War Office, B the Colonial Office and C the colony of Hongkong, he urged that the mere fact of B failing to carry out a promise to C which he had made as the agent of A, and for whose acts he was not responsible, would not justify C in declining to pay to B what was promised and due. He believed that the Colony was morally bound to pay the contribution. For the reasons given he felt he could conscientiously recommend the vote. He had sketched doubts of the future, but at the present time he could not help thinking that the Colony ought to pay the amount. He would be glad to hear what others might have to say on the subject.

Mr. Phineas Ryley said, he had fully considered the question together with his unofficial colleagues. But they could not satisfy themselves of the necessity for payment of the extra contribution, or of the justice of the demand. It was all very well to say this Colony should pay the money, but in face of the fact that all public works were stopped, and the colony was thus hampered in its progress he could not see the justice of the demand. It appeared that the Colony could only pay it by having something else cut off. If the Government had kept faith with the colony there would have been at least a *quid pro quo* for it in the shape of security, but now it was asked to pay without getting any return. At the present time the Garrison was not strong and unless materially assisted, in the hour of danger, by the Navy it would be in a very bad way indeed. No doubt the Government would assist in time of need, but it would be unreasonable to expect that all the fleet would be at our "beck and call"—we should have the vessels that could be spared, and no more. He might add that since the last meeting of Council he and his unofficial colleagues had been in receipt of correspondence from Singapore and Ceylon, and it was a great pleasure to him to note that there the unofficial members had taken the part of the ratepayers. They were not the servants of the Colonial Office, but of the public, who paid them, and he wished to see the public interest of the colony were now backed by Singapore and Ceylon and intended to oppose the unwarrantable demands of the Home Government to the last. If the vote were passed, as proposed, a public meeting would be called and a petition to Her Majesty be drawn up and forwarded at once. At that public meeting there would be a clear expression of opinion touching the breach of faith committed by the Government, the voice of the people would be heard "with no uncertain sound." It was a question which should be dealt with with great care, and the official members should see to it that the Imperial Government should do its share in the matter of the protection of its coaling stations and colonies.

Mr. T. H. Whitehead said—I have endeavoured to give due consideration to the remarks and the appeal made at the last meeting of Council to honourable members and the request not to place your Excellency in the painful position of being obliged to do your duty in face of the fact that the colony was thus hampered in its progress, but I feel compelled to emphatically oppose this heavy money vote on its merits. Whether \$40,000 per annum would be a fair reasonable first military contribution from the Colony is not the question before the Council. The increased military contribution was demanded from the Colony in March 1890, and still is demanded on the ground that in the opinion of the Imperial Government circumstances render it necessary to increase the Garrison in Hongkong. Lord Knutsford's despatch of 20th January, 1890, intimated most unmistakably that the proposed increase to the Garrison was the justification of the demand for increasing the contribution from \$20,000 to \$40,000. (Mr. Whitehead then read para. 5, 6, 7, and last sentence of 8 of the first report also report on Hongkong Bluebook for 1889.) The increased contribution was voted by this Council last year entirely on the ground stated by Lord Knutsford, viz. that the proposed increased Garrison would necessitate increased expenditure, and the vote was associated with and accompanied by certain resolutions, also unanimously agreed to by this Council, that as soon as the Imperial Government perform their portion of the agreement this Colony will readily

execute its part. (Mr. Whitehead read resolutions 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, para. 9 of the despatch of 1st April, 1890, from Mr. Fleming to Lord Knutsford.) The resolutions state that the increased vote should only be availed of in proportion to the increase in the Garrison expenditure and vice versa at one time warmly and cordially supported by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The Colonial Office despatch of 23rd May last to the War Office says—(The hon. member read para. 1, 3, and 5 of the despatch, which have already been published.) The War Office has not sent any extra troops; the average number of all ranks here was actually less in 1890 than in 1889, the Government has incurred no additional expenditure on the Garrison, since the date of Lord Knutsford's despatch, 20th January, 1890, yet in spite of Lord Knutsford's appeal for a concession in our behalf, H.M.'s Ministers persist in demanding from this Colony a military contribution just double the amount formerly paid without giving us any *quid pro quo* agreed upon. In acknowledging the Colonial Office despatch of the 23rd May, the War Office authorities shift their original grounds, and endeavour to justify the continuance of their increased demand for other reasons and on other grounds, which have not been submitted to this Council and which we have not had an opportunity of discussing. The very able despatch to the Colonial Office of the Office Administering the Government, the Hon. F. Fleming, dated 10th September last, for which we are most grateful, states our case very fairly and bears most comprehensively on the whole subject of the increased military contribution. This despatch has been acknowledged but it has not been answered. The Colonial Office has evidently knuckled under to the War Office, and agreed to support our just cause. Lord Knutsford appears to have forgotten and to have abandoned what his lordship termed "our reasonable claim," and requests this Government to vote the increased contribution, well knowing that no addition has been made to, and that no increased expenditure has been incurred on the Garrison. Possibly the Government could not carry this vote if all the official members voted in accordance with their convictions on this subject; the officials have, however, kept their views very secret hitherto in strange and striking contrast to the officials in the Singapore and Ceylon Legislatures on the same question; but whatever their opinions may be they are allowed no choice in the matter, and will be required to vote as the Government directs them. The officials, however, are not prohibited from stating their views and opinions. If the Government press this question and take the extra \$20,000 from the Colony by means of the more numerous official vote, I think the position of matters may become so serious and grave as to render it advisable for the Unofficial Members to take into their serious consideration the utility and propriety of their continued presence here where their votes, their opinions, and their resolutions are so completely disregarded and over-ruled, and to compel them to submit to Her Majesty the Queen by petition a statement of their reasons for contemplating such a course of action. I submit this would be the only effective protest to be made to the arbitrary policy of the Home Government and its decision to impose a fresh burden of \$20,000 a year on the ratepayers of the Colony without any *quid pro quo*, and without giving them or their representatives an opportunity of discussing the new position and the new grounds taken up by the Right Honourable the Secretary of State. The proceedings of the Imperial Government on this question are not characterised by reason and equity; they are arbitrary, and unjust; in my opinion they are calculated to imperil good Government and must tend to weaken and impair the allegiance and alienate the good-will towards the Mother Country of one of the most loyal of H.M.'s Colonies. There is a distinct breach of faith on the part of the War Office, and a glaring violation by the Imperial Government of a solemn agreement of its own framing, and which was deliberately entered into. It might be well for Her Majesty's advisers to hear in mind that, as stated in the Singapore Council the other day, loyalty is a hard plant, that it requires a fair field and no favour and that under injustice loyalty withers. Against such unconstitutional doings and such a serious injustice to the ratepayers of Hongkong I most earnestly and most emphatically protest.

THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.  
His Excellency said, he had listened attentively to all that had been said, and the points made by Mr. Ryley relative to the stoppage of the public works, was the only important point raised in the discussion. But it was by no means sure yet, that the telegram referred to was sent owing to the stoppage of works with the special object of thereby enabling the Colony to pay the military contribution. If that was so, then it would be a very serious matter and it would show that it would have been better not to proceed with those works until some aid had been obtained by means of a loan on the Tyam Waterworks or other productive works. He had also devoted attention to the numerous heroics in which Mr. Whitehead had indulged so largely. But he thought the issues raised by him were beside the main point. Mr. Whitehead said that hon. members had had no opportunity of discussing the vote in the manner they, the unofficials, could have desired. All he could say was that full opportunity had been given for discussion; and to say that no opportunity had been given—in the way indicated by the hon. member—as desirable—was simply to state what was not true. Apart from the unfortunate C. O. and W. O. despatches, he considered the demand just, and could therefore, recommend it, and did recommend it. The feeling which had arisen in connection with the vote—on the special grounds taken up for objections to it—were not altogether unnatural feelings, but the promise to increase the Garrison was distinct from the principle of the vote altogether. The question must now be put to the vote.

Mr. Ryley's amendment "that the question of the vote be postponed until further information arrives from England" was put to the vote, and just by one vote—viz. the whole of the unofficial members being in favour of, and the official members against it. The Governor cast his vote as it usual on such occasions.

The question of the "extra military contribution" was then put to the vote and resulted as follows—

AYES.  
H. E. the Governor.  
Mr. W. M. Deane.  
Mr. J. H. Stewart-Lockhart.  
Mr. N. G. Mitchell-Innes.  
Mr. S. Brown.  
Mr. W. M. Goodman.  
The Government thus "swamped" the unofficials by the usual *official* vote. During the voting there was a "good deal of titling, and an under-breath" remark, and it was preceded by Mr. Ryley (the senior unofficial member) getting out of his seat and speaking to Mr. Whitehead. Mr. Ryley looked like going out to serve himself and colleagues the annoyance of going through what they knew would be a painful lapse.

THE PROPOSED INCREASE OF SALARIES.  
Mr. Whitehead, asked—Are the Government officials now drawing the enhanced rates of pay recommended by the special or select Committee of this Council; or are they still drawing the old rates of pay and allowances pending the Secretary of State's approval?

NOES.  
Mr. P. Ryrie.  
Mr. T. H







Today's  
Advertisements.THEATRE ROYAL,  
CITY HALL.

Under the distinguished patronage of  
His Excellency the Governor Sir GEORGE  
WILLIAM DES VOEUX, K.C.M.G.

TO-MORROW, the 20th March.

MADAME PATEY,  
HER CONCERT PARTY,  
in a  
GRAND CONCERT  
CLASSICAL AND POPULAR MUSIC.

MADAME PATEY WILL SING—  
1.—"Quando tu Lieta" (Faust). Gounod.  
2.—"Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep". Knight.  
3.—"The Minstrel Boy". Moore.

POPULAR PRICES.  
Dress Circle and Stalls ..... \$2.00  
Back Seats ..... 1.00  
Soldiers and Sailors in uniform Half-Price to the Back Seats.

Plan at Messrs. KELLY & WALSH, LTD.,  
W. H. POOLE, Manager.  
Hongkong, 19th March, 1891. [431]

DOUGLAS STEAM-SHIP COMPANY,  
LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY AND TAMSUI.  
THE Company's Steamship

"HALLOONG,"  
Captain Bathurst, will be despatched for the  
above Ports on SUNDAY, the 22nd instant, at  
Daylight.

For Freight or Passage, apply to  
DOUGLAS LARRAK & Co.,  
General Managers.  
Hongkong, 19th March, 1891. [432]

## NORDEUTSCHER LLOYD.

STEAM TO YOKOHAMA, KOBE AND  
NAGASAKI.  
(Passing through the INLAND SEA.)  
THE Company's Steamship

"GENERAL WERDER,"  
Captain M. Elchei, will leave for the above Ports  
TO-MORROW, the 20th inst., at 3 P.M.  
For Freight or Passage, apply to  
MELCHERS & Co.,  
Agents.  
Hongkong, 19th March, 1891. [433]

## NORDEUTSCHER LLOYD.

STEAM TO SHANGHAI.  
THE Company's Steamship

"SACHSEN,"  
Captain K. von Goessel, will leave for the above  
place TO-MORROW, the 20th inst., at 3 P.M.  
For Freight or Passage, apply to  
MELCHERS & Co.,  
Agents.  
Hongkong, 19th March, 1891. [434]

## NORDEUTSCHER LLOYD.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.  
STEAMSHIP "SACHSEN,"  
FROM BREMEN AND PORTS OF CALL.

THE above named steamer having arrived,  
Consignees of Cargo are hereby informed  
that their Goods, with the exception of Opium,  
Treasure and Valuables, are being landed  
and stored at their risk in the Godowns of the  
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown  
Company, Limited, Kowloon, whence delivery  
may be obtained.

Optional Cargo will go on to Shanghai  
unless notice to the contrary be given before  
4 p.m., this afternoon, the 19th inst.  
No claims will be admitted after the Goods  
have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining  
after the 26th instant, will be subject to rent.  
All broken, chafed, and damaged goods are to  
be left in the Godowns, where they will be  
examined on Thursday, the 26th inst., at 2 P.M.  
All Claims must reach us before the 27th  
instant, or they will not be recognized.  
No Fire Insurance has been effected.  
Bills of Lading will be countersigned by  
MELCHERS & Co.,  
Agents.  
Hongkong, 19th March, 1891. [435]

## FOR SALE.

DOG CART and PONY, and set of English  
harness never used. The Pony is a per-  
fect Lady's Hack.  
Apply to  
CAPTAIN GARDINER.  
Hongkong, 19th March, 1891. [436]

## NOTICE.

WE have this day OPENED a BRANCH  
of our FIRM at HANKOW.  
CARLOWITZ & Co.  
Hongkong, 19th March, 1891. [437]

## TO BE LET.

A FIVE-ROOMED HOUSE, No. 3, "Wild  
Dell Buildings," Wanchai Road (opposite  
Bakery).  
No. 1 (corner House facing East) and No. 6  
(corner House facing West) Richmond Terrace  
the former with Conservatory and Tennis Lawn.  
Each House contains Six Good Rooms, and is  
pleasantly situated.  
No. 4, RICHMOND TERRACE, Four large  
Rooms.  
Apply to  
HENRY HUMPHREYS.

TO BE LET OR SOLD,  
On favourable terms, with immediate  
Possession.

EIGHT HOUSES at "Mountain View,"  
Peak District, near Plumkett's Gap.  
If sold, part of the Purchase money can remain  
on Mortgage.  
Apply to  
JOHN A. JUPP.  
53 & 55, Queen's Road Central.  
Hongkong, 19th March, 1891. [438]

HONGKONG SCHOOLS' ATHLETIC  
SPORTS.

By kind permission of the Jockey Club, the  
SPORTS connected with this above will  
be held on the Race Course, on SATURDAY,  
the 21st instant, commencing at 1.30 p.m.  
LADY DES VOEUX has kindly consented to  
Distribute the Prizes.  
Selections of Music will be given at intervals  
by the Band of the A. & S. Highlanders.  
EDW. JNO. BOARDS,  
Hon. Secretary.  
Hongkong, 19th March, 1891. [439]

## Amusements.

THEATRE ROYAL,  
CITY HALL, HONGKONG.

Mrs. CARSON, Lessee and Manager.

GRAND DRAMATIC SEASON  
COMMENCING SATURDAY NEXT,  
the 21st March, 1891.

Under the Distinguished Patronage of  
H.E. the Governor, Sir GEO. WILLIAM DES  
VOEUX, K.C.M.G. and LADY DES VOEUX.

Mr. GEO. C. MILN  
supported by  
MISS LOUISE JORDAN & ORIGINAL  
COMPANY  
IN  
H A M L E T.

PROGRAMME FOR THE SEASON,  
Saturday and Tuesday, 21st and 24th March,  
HAMLET; Thursday, 26th, MERCHANT OF  
VENICE; Saturday, 28th, RICHARD III;  
Wednesday and Thursday, 1st and 2nd April,  
ROMEO AND JULIET; Saturday and Mon-  
day, 4th and 5th, ROB ROY; Wednesday, 8th,  
OTHELLO; Thursday, 9th, LADY OF LYONS;  
Saturday, 11th April, Farewell Performance,  
MACBETH.

Popular Prices:—\$2 and \$1. Soldiers and  
Sailors Half-price to Pit.

Seats now being booked for each Performance  
at Messrs. Kelly & Walsh, Ltd.

Doors open 8.30. Performance to commence  
at 9 p.m.  
Hongkong, 17th March, 1890. [437]

THEATRE ROYAL,  
CITY HALL.

THE HONGKONG AMATEUR  
DRAMATIC CLUB.

The above Club will give  
A PERFORMANCE  
ON  
MONDAY, the 30th March,  
AND  
TUESDAY, the 31st March,  
When will be produced an Original Comedy by  
James Albery, entitled—  
"TWO ROSES."

By kind permission of Lieut.-Colonel CHATER,  
and the Officers, the Band of the 1st Battalion  
Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders will perform  
during the Evening.

Tickets can be obtained from Messrs. LANE,  
CRAWFORD & Co. on and after Monday, March  
23rd, at 11 a.m. Price, \$2 and \$1.

Doors open 8.30. Performance to commence  
at 9 o'clock.  
Hongkong, 16th March, 1891. [438]

## Insurances.

THE STANDARD  
A SCOTCH LIFE OFFICE OF 64 YEARS  
STANDING, AND ONE OF THE WEALTHIEST  
AND MOST PROGRESSIVE OF THE PROVI-  
DENT INSTITUTIONS OF THE UNITED  
KINGDOM.

THE Standard has a long record of good  
services to refer to; its Funds, annually  
increasing, amount to £7,000,000; its  
Premiums are moderate; and all modern features  
consistent with safety have been adopted.  
ADAMSON, BELL & Co.,  
Agents, Hongkong

GENERAL LIFE AND FIRE  
ASSURANCE COMPANY IN  
LONDON.

THE Undersigned having been appointed  
Agents for the above Company, are pre-  
pared to ACCEPT RISKS against FIRE and  
LIFE at Current Rates.  
REUTER, BROCKELMANN & Co.,  
Hongkong, 1st July, 1880. [439]

THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE  
SOCIETY  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES.

RUSSELL & Co.,  
Agents.  
Hongkong, 14th November, 1890. [439]

NOTICE.  
THE MAN ON INSURANCE COMPANY  
LIMITED.

CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED.....\$1,000,000.

The above Company is prepared to accept  
MARINE RISKS at CURRENT RATES on Goods,  
&c. Policies granted to all Parts of the world;  
payable at any of its Agencies.

WOO LIN YUK,  
Secretary.

HEAD OFFICE,  
No. 3, QUEEN'S ROAD WEST,  
Hongkong, 1st February, 1891. [440]

GENERAL NOTICE.  
THE ON TAI INSURANCE COMPANY,  
(LIMITED.)

CAPITAL, TAELS 600,000. \$433,333-33.  
RESERVE FUND .....\$315,000-00.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.  
LEE SING, Esq., Lo YUE MOON, Esq.,  
LOU TAO SHUN, Esq.

MANAGER—HO AMEL.

MARINE RISKS ON GOODS, &c., taken  
at CURRENT RATES in all parts of the  
world.

HEAD OFFICE, 3 & 5, PRAYA WEST,  
Hongkong, 17th December, 1890. [440]

## NOTICE.

JAYE'S SANITARY COMPOUNDS  
COMPANY, LIMITED.

JAYE'S WOOD PRESERVER OR  
ANTISEPTIC PAINT.

THE Undersigned have this day been  
appointed SOLE AGENTS for the sale  
of these PERFECT DISINFECTANTS, and  
are prepared to supply quantities—be sent  
purchasers at Wholesale Prices, Extra Special  
terms for Shipping and Large Orders.  
SIR ROBERT RAWLINSON, C.B., C.E., Chief  
Sanitary Engineer, Local Government Board,  
London, says  
"It is the best Disinfectant in use."  
W. G. HUMPHREYS & Co.,  
Bank Buildings.  
Hongkong, 19th June, 1891. [441]

## Masonic.

CATHAY CHAPTER,  
No. 1,165.

A REGULAR CONVOCAION of the  
above Chapter, will be held in FREMA-  
SON'S HALL, Zealand Street, TO-MORROW,  
the 20th inst., at 8.30 for 9 P.M. precisely.  
Hongkong, 16th March, 1891. [440]

## To be Let.

TO LET.  
BLUE BUNGALOW,  
PEAK ROAD.

Apply to  
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT  
& AGENCY Co., Ltd.  
Hongkong, 17th March, 1891. [441]

TO BE LET.  
No. 10, SEYMOUR TERRACE.  
Apply to  
HERCULES J. SCOTT.  
Hongkong, 3rd February, 1891. [427]

KOWLOON.  
TO LET,  
KNUTSFORD TERRACE—KIMBERLEY  
ROAD.  
With immediate Possession.

THE KOWLOON LAND AND BUILDING Co's  
Estate. Healthily situated 5 ROOMED  
HOUSES with Bath-rooms complete; splendid  
view. Moderate Rent.

Apply to  
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT  
& AGENCY Co., Ltd.  
Hongkong, 12th March 1891 [445]

TO LET.  
NOS. 25 & 27, ELGIN STREET, behind  
the Old Union Church.  
Apply to  
ACHEE & Co.  
Hongkong, 25th February, 1891. [420]

TO LET,  
With immediate Possession.  
No. 17, PRAYA CENTRAL.

OFFICES—above Messrs. Douglas, Larra-  
k & Co's Premises.  
Apply to  
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT  
& AGENCY Co., Ltd.  
Hongkong, 16th December, 1890. [440]

TO LET.  
NOS. 9 & 11, SEYMOUR TERRACE.  
ROOMS in College Chambers  
No. 4, OLD BAILEY STREET.  
OFFICES and CHAMBERS in Connaught  
House, Queen's Road Central.  
OFFICES in Victoria Buildings.  
Apply to  
DAVID SASSOON, SONS & Co.  
Hongkong, 2nd February, 1891. [423]

TO LET.  
Possession on 1st April next.

HOUSE No. 18, ELGIN STREET.  
For particulars, apply to  
LOUIS KIRCHMANN,  
No. 4, Ladder Street Terrace.  
Hongkong, 26th February, 1891. [448]

## Hotels.

THE SHAMEN HOTEL  
BRITISH CONCESSION, CANTON.

THIS FIRST CLASS HOTEL, admirably  
situated within a few minutes walk of the  
River Steamer Wharves, is now open to receive  
Visitors.

The Bed-rooms are cool, airy and comfortably  
furnished, and the spacious Dining Room, Sitting  
Rooms, and accommodation generally will be  
found equal to the best Hotels in the Far East.

The Table D'Hôte is supplied with every  
luxury in season, and the cuisine is in ex-  
cellent hands.

Wines, Spirits, Malt Liqueurs, etc., of the best  
quality only.

A. F. DO ROZARIO,  
Manager.  
Hongkong, 4th November, 1890. [1047]

PEAK HOTEL,  
VICTORIA GAP, PEAK,  
Adjoining the Tramway Terminus.

THE most beautiful position in the environs  
of Hongkong, situated 1,350 feet above  
sea level, commanding magnificent views of the  
City and Harbour of Victoria, the mainland of  
China and neighbouring islands.

Cool Southern breezes in Summer with perfect  
protection from N.E. Winds of Winter.

The best accommodation of Visitors with  
every comfort, convenience and attention.

The Cuisine is under the best supervision and  
every luxury obtainable is supplied.

WINES, etc., of the best Brands and finest  
qualities only are kept.

TERMS MODERATE.  
Telephone No. 23.  
PEAK HOTEL & TRADING Co., Ltd.,  
Proprietors.  
Hongkong, 15th February, 1891. [377]

THE BOA VISTA.  
BISHOPS BAY, MACAO.

THIS House, situated on the sea shore in one  
of the best and healthiest parts of Macao,  
and commanding an admirable view, facing the  
South, was OPENED as a HOTEL on the  
1st July.

Every comfort will be provided for visitors, with  
excellent cuisine and choice Wines.

Hot, Cold, Shower and Sea Water Baths;  
Largo and well Ventilated Dining, Billiard, and  
Reading Rooms, and well supplied Bar.

A small dairy is attached to the premises.  
MRS. MARIA B. DE REMEDIOS,  
Proprietress. [434]

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

A COMPETITION for the LONG RANGE  
RANGE SHOOTING, will be held on SATUR-  
DAY, the 21st instant, at 3.30 P.M. Distance,  
500 and 600 yards. Ten shots at each Position;  
1st, Entrance fee, 50 cents.

A Launch will leave the P. & O. Pier at 3  
O'CLOCK P.M. to convey competitors.  
FRANK COLLINS,  
Hon. Secretary.  
Hongkong, 16th March, 1891. [442]

## Intimations.

NOTICE.  
HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of  
the MEMBERS of the Hongkong General  
Chamber of Commerce will be held TO-MOR-  
ROW, the 20th March, at 3.30 p.m., at the  
Rooms of the Chamber, City Hall, for the pur-  
pose of receiving the Report of the Committee,  
and passing the Secretary's Accounts for the year  
ending 31st December, 1890.

By Order,  
F. HENDERSON,  
Secretary. [409]

CHINA SUGAR REFINING COMPANY,  
LIMITED.

NOTICE.  
THE Thirteenth Ordinary Annual MEETING  
of SHAREHOLDERS in the above  
Company will be held at the Office of the General  
Agents, Pedder Street, on SATURDAY, the  
21st March, at 11 a.m., for the purpose of  
receiving a Report from the General Agents  
with a Statement of Accounts to the 31st Decem-  
ber, 1890.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company  
will be CLOSED from the 6th to the 21st March,  
both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,  
General Agents.  
Hongkong, 28th February, 1891. [361]

CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE,  
LIMITED.

ADJUSTMENT OF BONUS FOR  
THE YEAR 1890.

CONTRIBUTORS to the above Office are  
requested to furnish the Undersigned with a  
List of their Contributions, for the year ending  
31st December, 1890, in order that the Distribu-  
tion of Bonus may be arranged. Returns not  
rendered prior to the 31st day of March instant  
will be adjusted by the Office, and no Claims or  
Alterations will be subsequently admitted.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,  
General Agents,  
Canton Insurance Office, Limited.  
Hongkong, 2nd March, 1891. [372]

STRAITS FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,  
LIMITED.

THE TRANSFER BOOKS of this Company  
will be CLOSED at the HEAD OFFICE,  
SINGAPORE, from the 11th to 25th March next,  
both days inclusive.

ROBT. BAIRD,  
Agent.  
Hongkong, 26th February, 1891. [346]

THE BALMORAL GOLD MINING  
COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE ORDINARY YEARLY MEETING of  
the SHAREHOLDERS in the above  
Company will be held at the Hongkong Hotel,  
on WEDNESDAY, the 25th day of March,  
1891, at 2.30 p.m. in the afternoon, for the  
purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors  
and a Statement of Accounts to the 30th day of  
September, 1890.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company  
will be CLOSED from the 18th inst., to the 25th  
inst., both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board of Directors.  
K. A. STEVENS,  
Secretary.  
Hongkong, 10th March, 1891. [406]

THE BALMORAL GOLD MINING  
COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE is hereby given that an EXTRA-  
ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING  
of the SHAREHOLDERS of the above Com-  
pany will be held at the Hongkong Hotel,  
Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong, at 2.45  
p.m. on WEDNESDAY, the 25th day  
of March, 1891, for the purpose of considering,  
and if approved, of passing, the following Special  
Resolution—

That the Capital of the Balmoral Gold Mining  
Company, Limited, be increased from  
\$180,000 to \$225,000 by the creation of  
Four Thousand and Five Hundred New  
Shares of \$50 each to be fully paid up.  
And that such New Shares be issued upon  
such terms and conditions and generally  
with such rights and privileges as shall  
be resolved upon or directed at the Meet-  
ing, and if no direction be given, as the  
Directors shall determine.

By Order of the Board of Directors.  
K. A. STEVENS,  
Secretary.  
Hongkong, 10th March, 1891. [407]

THE PUNJON AND SUNGHIE DUA  
SAMANTAN MINING COMPANY,  
LIMITED.

THE Fifth Ordinary Half-yearly MEETING  
of SHAREHOLDERS in the above  
Company will be held at the Company's Office,  
No. 9, Queen's Road, on TUESDAY, the 31st  
March, 1891, at 4 o'clock p.m., for the purpose  
of receiving the Report of the Directors, together  
with a Statement of Accounts to the 30th Sep-  
tember, 1890.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company  
will be CLOSED from the 17th to 30th instant,  
both days inclusive.

A. O'D. GOURDIN,  
Secretary.  
Hongkong, 16th March, 1891. [437]

THE PUNJON AND SUNGHIE DUA  
SAMANTAN MINING COMPANY,  
LIMITED.

NOTICE is hereby given that an EXTRA-  
ORDINARY MEETING of the  
above Company will be held at the Regis-  
tered Office of the Company, No. 9, Queen's  
Road, Hongkong, on TUESDAY, the 31st March,  
1891, at 4.15 of the clock in the afternoon, for  
the purpose of considering, and, if thought fit,  
passing resolutions to alter the Articles of  
Association by striking out paragraph 2 of  
Article 6, and paragraph 5 of Article 13, and to  
authorize the Directors to increase the Capital of  
the Company by the issue of 60,000 New Shares  
of \$1 each. Further, to authorize the Company  
to further increase its Capital from time to time  
to such amount as may be deemed expedient. A  
Resolution will also be proposed authorizing the  
Directors to abandon or otherwise dispose of the  
Sunglie Dua Samantan property.

By Order of the Board,  
A. O'D. GOURDIN,  
Secretary.  
Hongkong, 17th March, 1891. [438]

HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB.

HONGKONG DERBY, 1892.

THE WEIGHTS for the above RACE will  
be weight for inches, not 10st. 10lb. as  
heretofore.

E. H. GORE-BOOTH,  
Clerk of the Course.  
Hongkong, 17th March, 1891. [443]

## Intimations.

## GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

INFORMATION has been received from the  
Military Authorities that ARTILLERY  
PRACTICE will take place from the Batteries  
at Lyemun in North-Westerly and Easterly  
directions, North Point in a North-Easterly direc-  
tion, and Kowloon Dock in an Easterly direc-  
tion from the 16th to 21st instants, between the  
hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. daily.

All Ships, Junks and other Vessels are cau-  
tioned to keep clear of the range.

By Command,  
W. M. DEANE,  
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Hongkong, 12th March, 1891. [420]

TO BOARDERS.  
FIRST-CLASS BOARD; permanent boarders  
preferred.

Apply to  
MRS. CARROLL,  
No. 7, Calne Road.  
Hongkong, 14th March, 1890. [425]

CANTON DISTRICT.

LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS,  
No. 38.

PILES OF WHAMPOA BARRIER  
CARRIED AWAY.

CAPTAINS of Vessels are hereby notified,  
that no reliance can be placed on the  
position of the GREEN LIGHT at the Whampoa  
barrier, (L-16 Cha) until the outer piles on the  
South side—recently carried away—are replaced;  
due notice of which will be given.

J. H. MAY,  
Harbour Master.

Approved  
F. E. WOODRUFF,  
Commissioner.  
Canton, 14th March, 1891. [426]

NOTICE.

THOMAS KERR & CO.

ENGINEERS, BOILER-MAKERS  
AND  
CONTRACTORS.

YAU-MA-TI ENGINEERING WORKS,  
KOWLOON.  
OFFICE—No. 12, D'Agallur Street.  
Hongkong, 24th August, 1890. [30]

NOTICE.

THE Undersigned has secured the services  
of an experienced PHOTOGRAPHER,  
and undertakes to produce First Class Photo-  
graphs and the enlargement of Photos, &c.  
Cabinets (enamelled).....\$5 a dozen.  
Cartes de Visite.....\$1 a dozen.

PUN WOO PHOTOGRAPHER,  
84, Queen's Road Central,  
(Top Floor of Teen Sing, Bookbinder).  
Hongkong, 17th February, 1891. [298]

NOTICE.